ISLINGTON CENTRE FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

England & Wales · Charity number 1135205

Details

Other names	ST MARY MAGDALENE CENTRE FOR REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS, ST MARY MAGDALENE CENTRE
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	07076199
Registered	2010-03-25
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Cross Street Baptist Church 16-18 Cross Street London N1 2BG
Phone	02073549946
Email	islingtoncentre@gmail.com
Website	www.islingtoncentre.co.uk

Activities

Objects: 1. TO ADVANCE EDUCATION AND RELIEVE FINANCIAL HARDSHIP AMONGST THOSE SEEKING ASYLUM AND THOSE GRANTED REFUGEE STATUS BY THE PROVISION OF ADVICE, TRAINING AND SUPPORT.2. TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL ABOUT THE ISSUES RELATING TO REFUGEES AND THOSE SEEKING ASYLUM.3. TO ADVANCE THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION BY LIVING OUT OUR LOVE FOR NEIGHBOUR AND BRINGING THE STRANGER OF ANY OR NO FAITH INTO OUR COMMUNITY.

Activities: Support Service and Referrals and Sign Posting for refugees and asylum seekersEnglish Language (ESOL) TeachingArt, Writing, Choir, Drama, Theatre, Music, Sport

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Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL
- Throughout London

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£529,069	£529,572	£240,986	10
2024-08-31	£499,271	£505,227	-	-
2023-08-31	£475,157	£447,652	-	-
2022-08-31	£324,733	£385,442	-	-
2021-08-31	£436,041	£364,646	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Victoria Shelley Rae	Chair	2022-01-17
Charlotte Julia Lilley		2023-05-15
Gabrielle Samuels		2023-05-15
Ghadeer Al-Seragi		2023-07-10
Gjelina Durgaj		2025-09-22
Imran Malik		2023-05-15
Kathy Margerison		2022-03-14
Margaret Mary Lally		2025-09-22
Syed Zahid		2025-09-22

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ISLINGTON CENTRE FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1135205

Accounts

Annual Report 2024-2025

Islington Centre for
Refugees and Migrants

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Note: *All quotes marked with an asterisk (*) have been anonymised to protect the identity of the individuals involved.*

Message from our CEO

Over the last year, despite increasing hostility towards migrants, we have seen many positive outcomes for our community members, including people gaining refugee status, finding safe accommodation, and in some cases, moving on to work or college.

We operate on a very tight budget and funding is always a challenge, but this year the funding environment has taken a turn that is adversely affecting the whole sector. In response to this we ran an urgent appeal between February and August. The success of the appeal enabled us to complete the year as planned – thank you to everyone who supported us!

In the face of these challenges I am proud that the Centre remains a place where people know they are welcome and can grow in confidence, dignity and strength. These challenges have brought us closer together as a community and helped us all to better understand the experiences of the people we work with.

For me, one of the highlights of the year was seeing the great collaborative work for and by our community members. From delivering sessions to serving on the trustee board, from volunteering on the ground to contributing to funding bids, our co-production work has propelled us forward and was key in preparing our ambitious new strategy for 2025-28.

We remain deeply grateful to our wonderful patron, Juliet Stevenson CBE, whose dedication and steadfast support have uplifted our community for many years.

The success of the year – which can be seen throughout the pages of this report – was made possible because of the contributions of our community, and the commitment of our incredible staff team.

ANDY RUIZ PALMA

Message from our Board Chair

Reflecting back on the past year, we take pride in the Centre's ability to lean in to the changing environment and to be resilient. This pride is strengthened by being a chosen partner in Islington Council's Borough of Sanctuary Programme. We thank our supporters, long-standing and new, who are standing with us and the community of welcome we have built over nearly 30 years.

Looking ahead we have solid foundations in our new 3-year strategy and the talented and dedicated team of staff and volunteers. We know the continuing funding downturn across the charity sector creates uncertainty and this remains a top concern for our Board as we look at the impact this may have on our services and how we can strengthen our funding. For our community members, who are at the heart of all our work, hostility outside the friendship of the Centre and increasingly restrictive asylum policies means living day-to-day is fraught with uncertainties. Through all this, we are there for them.

We continue our vital work with hope and confidence – we know what we do works and we know every day why it matters.

VICTORIA RAE

[Board Chair Victoria Rae pictured left with English student pictured right]

Message from a Trustee

When I first came to the UK, the support I received from the Islington Centre was invaluable. It helped me improve my English, better understand the culture, connect with others in similar situations, access clothing for my children, and build meaningful friendships. These services made a significant difference in my life and in my ability to settle here.

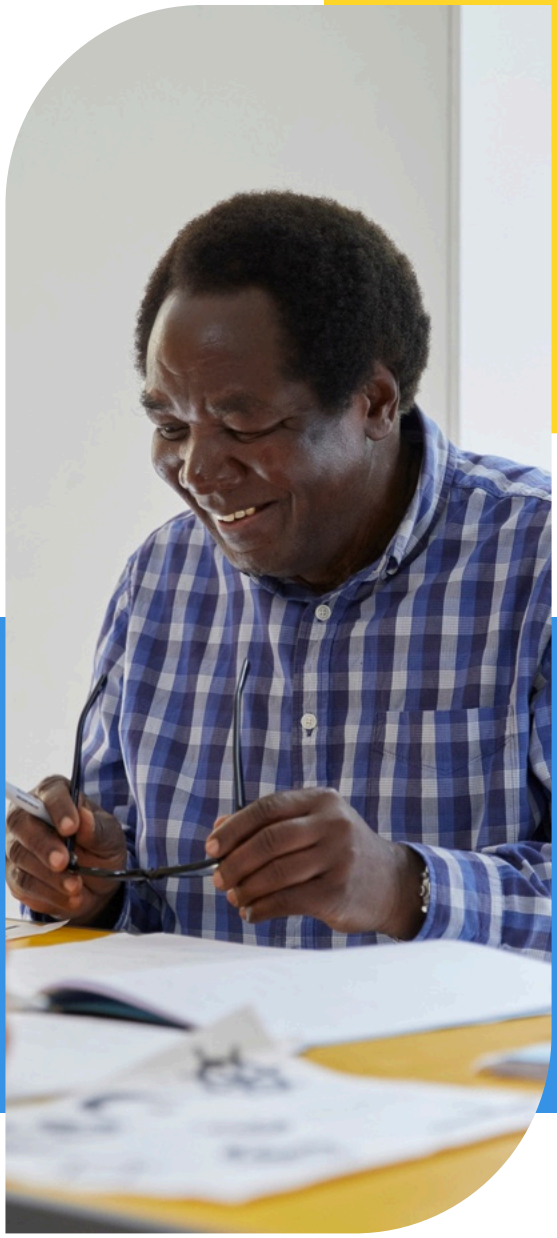
Having once been in the position of those we support, I understand the challenges that newcomers face and the importance of having a place to turn to. Now, as a Trustee, I am committed to ensuring that the Centre continues to offer support to all who need it.

Angelina Durgaj
Trustee

About Us

Mission

To offer people the emotional support, practical tools and sense of community they need to build a happy life in the UK.



Vision

We envisage a world where refugees, asylum seekers and migrants are integrated fully into their new communities with equal access to opportunities to progress their lives and fulfil their potential.

Values

01 Offering a warm welcome to all who come to us

02 Working together to put the community first

03 Care and compassion

04 Respect and dignity for all

05 Improving our working model from our own learning

06 Showing grit and determination to be here for our community

What We Do

Classes and Activities

Our comprehensive offering of classes and therapeutic activities includes English, art and writing, yoga, gym, exercise, dance, choir, and sports discussion group. Classes are aimed at increasing language proficiency and building a sense of community. Last year we offered **1,260 classes** both online and in-person.

Support Service

The Support Service provides expert advice and one-to-one casework to overcome the barriers people often face. Last year we provided **2,214 appointments** supporting 75 people with housing, 81 people to see a solicitor and get the legal support they needed to advance their asylum case, 23 people to apply for college and so much more.

Centre Days

Every week, our Centre Days operate as a community hub with a space for migrants to come together, join engaging sessions, access advice, meet others, take items from the 'free shop', enjoy a shared meal, and feel at home. Last year we offered **115 Centre Days** from three sites in Islington, with over 2,700 attendances in total.

Support Packages

Through our Support Package financial hardship grants scheme, asylum seekers avoid hunger, have the means to buy essentials and can live with dignity. We are proud that last year we distributed **2,400+ Support Package grants to 92 people seeking asylum**.

Digital Inclusion

Online access is vital to securing resources, attending online classes, and pursuing education. Last year we distributed **91 smartphones and laptops** and empowered our community to feel confident online through 1-1 digital support sessions.

Community Story

Since joining Islington Centre three years ago, Grace [not her real name] has seen her housing situation improved, built valuable friendships and studied hard to improve her English skills. She shared:

"My situation, it is so hard. ***At the Centre, I get to meet people****. I get to exercise. I have been coming to the Centre every week. I do English classes, art, choir, dancing, and I especially love doing gym and yoga online.*

The Islington Centre will find a way to help you. If you feel lonely, bad, or insecure, then this is a good place to be. ***They helped me when I had nowhere to stay****–finding me a host and getting me off the streets.*

I have studied very well and am attending college. I now have good references and ***I am going to the next level****. Once I get my status, I want to work and give back. I want to be an inspirational person for others. Everything we do here is training for our new life.*

I want to say to the donors of the Centre that they are amazing. You are sowing positive seeds. You are doing a good job. Thank you!"

Grace is continuing to build her new life in the UK and the Centre will be here as a place of support for as long as she needs us.

Our Year in Numbers

609
English Classes

576
Arts + Fitness Classes

115
In-Person Centre Days

2,214
Support Service Appointments

2,425
Support Packages Disbursed

1,800
Home-cooked Meals Served

12
Educational + Cultural Trips

91
Laptops + Phones Distributed

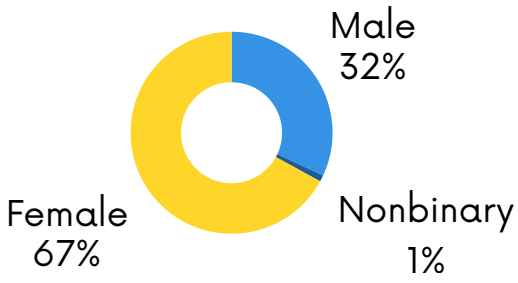
"Here I can get clothes, food, and toiletries. I can find housing and services. If not for them, I might not know about services and ways to get help. I have achieved a lot. I am more connected here. At Islington Centre I feel at home."

– Simone*

Our Community

Our approach is not institutional, but compassionate and human. We have been in London for 28 years and have built many long-standing relationships with our 219 community members who originate from more than 40 countries.

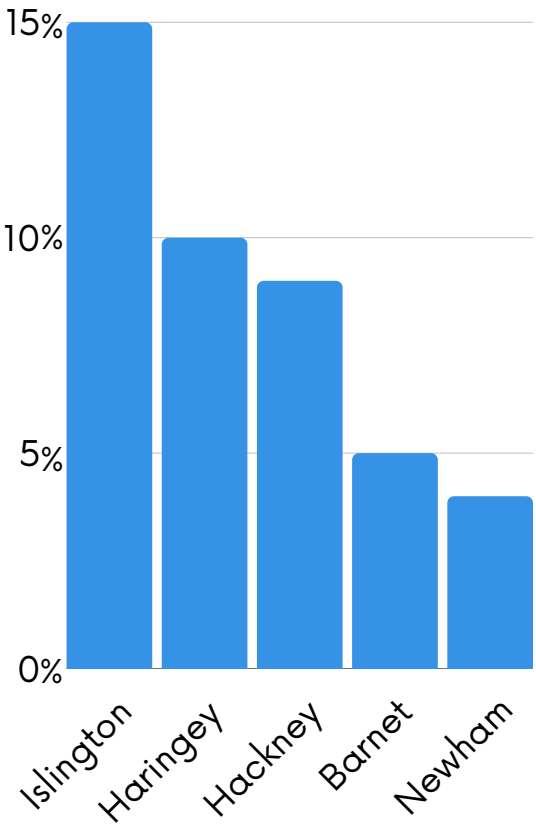
Gender



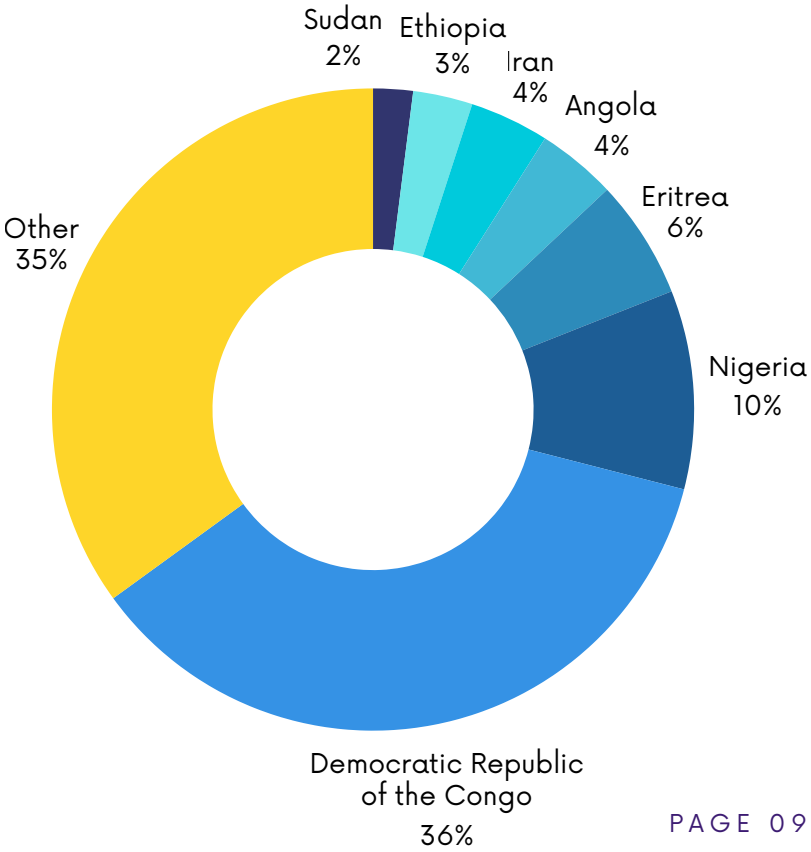
Destitution*

*People who are not legally allowed to work or access government support

Top 5 Boroughs



Country of Origin



"I feel good when I come to the Islington Centre. I am happy to learn. It has helped with my depression. I am happier."

- Faith*

"With the Islington Centre I am feeling more confident. My English has been improved. Here I feel safe, happy, and at home. "

- Hassan*

Outcomes

Across the year our community of 219 people achieved many positive outcomes in their lives through their own hard work and the advocacy, referrals and casework of our Support Service. Our Support Service offers advice on a wide range of issues, including healthcare, education and housing and is registered with the Immigration Advice Authority (IAA – formerly OISC) to provide advice at Level 1 (Asylum and Protection). Last year the issues people overcame included:

81 people accessed **legal support**

75 people avoided street sleeping and had safe **housing**

71 people **negotiated the asylum system**

48 people saw a doctor or dentist to get **healthcare**

27 people accessed **food banks**

26 people accessed **welfare / benefits**

24 people accessed **new parent support**

23 people applied to further their **education**

18 people created CVs and sought employment

14 people **gained permission to stay in the UK**

"If you bring any problem here, they will help you."
- Alan

Outcomes

We are committed to ensuring that our services remain responsive, relevant, and impactful. We collect feedback from our community through regular co-creation sessions both in person and online. Twice a year, we run a co-created survey which goes to new starters in February and to the whole community in July. This ongoing dialogue helps us continually refine our approach. Below are the results from our all-community survey about Islington Centre's impact over the last 12 months:

Less Isolated + More Part of Community

93%

Less Stressed

91%

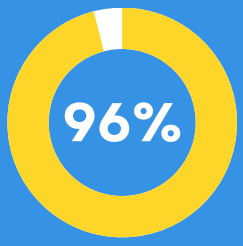
More Confident

96%

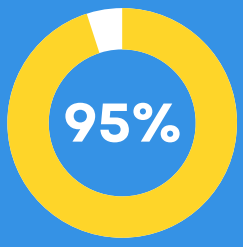
More Confident Using Computers + Internet

100%

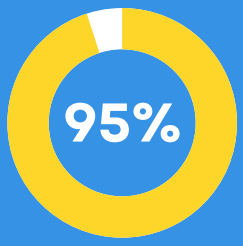
English Improved



Access to Food, Clothes + Essentials Improved



Physical Wellbeing Improved



Community Quotes

"The Islington Centre has been my companion. They have arranged for whatever my baby needs and baby clothes. They give us what we need. I love this Centre."

"I always feel great and happy at Islington Centre. I can't feel loneliness or depressed again. I have very lovely people around me. They are always encouraging me to work hard to move forward. It is very good for me."

"The Islington Centre will find a way to help you. If you feel lonely, bad, or insecure then this is a good place to be. They are helping if you don't have a place to stay. They helped me with hosts and got me off the streets and helped me find a home."

"Attending English lessons greatly contributes to my positivity and boosts my confidence."

"I like to come to see friends, meet new people, take part in choir and dance with people I can relate to. I also like doing art, playing bingo at the Tea Cosy club and having lunch."

"The Islington Centre is where I can learn English, have many activities, like going on a trip to learn not only English, but also history and culture. I can get support, which makes my life easier and comfortable, not stressed, to more actively live."

*Feedback provided anonymously by community members during our latest surveys.

Samira's Story

When Samira [not her real name] first came to Islington Centre in 2023, she was living in an asylum hotel, struggling with poor mental health, and awaiting a decision on her asylum claim. She dreamed of going to college but needed support to take those first steps. At Islington Centre, she joined our higher-level English classes and met regularly with the Support Service, beginning to build confidence and a sense of community.

In October 2024, Samira's asylum claim was refused. Within weeks she lost her financial support and accommodation, a devastating blow that left her facing homelessness and suicidal thoughts. She felt deeply hopeless. Islington Centre acted immediately, offering emotional support and referring her to The Listening Place, where she accessed professional mental health care. We also helped her secure emergency accommodation ensuring she wasn't left on the streets.

During this time, Samira discovered she was pregnant, and the constant moving daily from place to place began affecting her health. We successfully advocated for a safe night shelter, allowing her to rest and store her belongings, though she still had to leave during the day.

Samira found a solicitor to prepare a fresh asylum claim. We supported this process by liaising with her solicitor and covering travel costs for her to lodge her asylum claim in-person in Cardiff. We also helped her apply for Section 4 support for refused asylum seekers, which was granted. When bureaucratic delays left her without accommodation, we intervened to secure a place in London, protecting her links to her support network. When the housing provider proposed relocating her outside London, we advocated for her to remain near her support network. She was eventually moved to suitable self-catering accommodation in South London.

We celebrated with Samira when she was granted discretionary leave to remain and we continued to stand alongside her as she transitioned to this new stage in life. We supported her in claiming Universal Credit and with other practical issues. During her pregnancy, we referred her to baby-focused organisations and sourced a car seat, essential for leaving the hospital. Her baby was born in August 2025.

Samira sought long-term housing for herself and her baby, with Islington Centre supporting her with a housing application to her local council. When she was given an unsuitable place to live, Islington Centre brought in a housing solicitor. After the many challenges and barriers, **Samira is now in a lovely flat, watching her baby grow, and looking forward to their future together in the UK.**

Islington Centre will continue to support Samira for as long as she needs. Her journey reflects Islington Centre's commitment to walking with individuals through every challenge, providing practical help, advocacy, and care.

Organisational Developments

Strategy

Our three year strategy came to an end in 2025 and we are proud that, led by our Board, we delivered on key goals. Highlights included strengthening our organisational structure, growing our fundraising capacity, expanding our in person English language provision and forging new partnerships. In the autumn of 2025, our Board launched our new three year strategic plan to shape the Centre's future direction.

Co-Creation

For 28 years, our work has been shaped by what our community tells us they need. Since September 2024, we've partnered with Expert Link through a grant with the Lloyds Bank Foundation to embed co-creation across Islington Centre, from community-led sessions and volunteering to co-designed surveys and feedback forums. We are establishing a community advisory panel to further elevate lived experience in our decision making.

Income Diversification

Over the last year, in the face of a difficult economic climate, Islington Centre has put in place measures to diversify our income so we are more resilient in where our funding comes from. Over the last year, we worked with a consultant through Lloyds Bank Foundation on a fundraising strategy and expanded capacity in our fundraising team.

Community Member Highlight

Gladys

Gladys first came to the Centre for help with legal advice, and we celebrated with her last year when she was granted leave to remain in the UK.

One year on, her life has transformed. She's already thinking about how she can give back to others starting out on the same journey. She shared with us:

"I like the Centre. They are helping me a lot, a lot, a lot. ***Now I have my own place and I started my first job in the UK. Everything is opening for me now.*** *The Centre is good.*

For the future I am thinking to do a lot of things. I am thinking about helping people - people like me when I first came here. I want to give back. Now I know things and ***I want to give back to my community.*** *When we come to the Centre we meet people and are a big family.*

To donors of the Centre I need to say thank you so much. Not just from me. There are many people here you are supporting to get housing, to get food, to make friends. God's blessings to you."

Partnerships

Speak Street

We partner with Speak Street, which provides fun, high-quality English classes. Speak Street leads an online English class for our community each week with 39 sessions across the year as well as monthly field trips to art galleries with 12 art trips last year.

NHS CLASH

NHS Central London Action on Sexual Health (CLASH) provides free and confidential sexual health advice sessions to our community with 15 sessions across the year.

Bloody Good Period

We partnered with Bloody Good Period, working together to ensure dignity through accessibility of period products to people in our community. Last year we distributed 125 orders directly to people's homes, including 5,500 individual items.

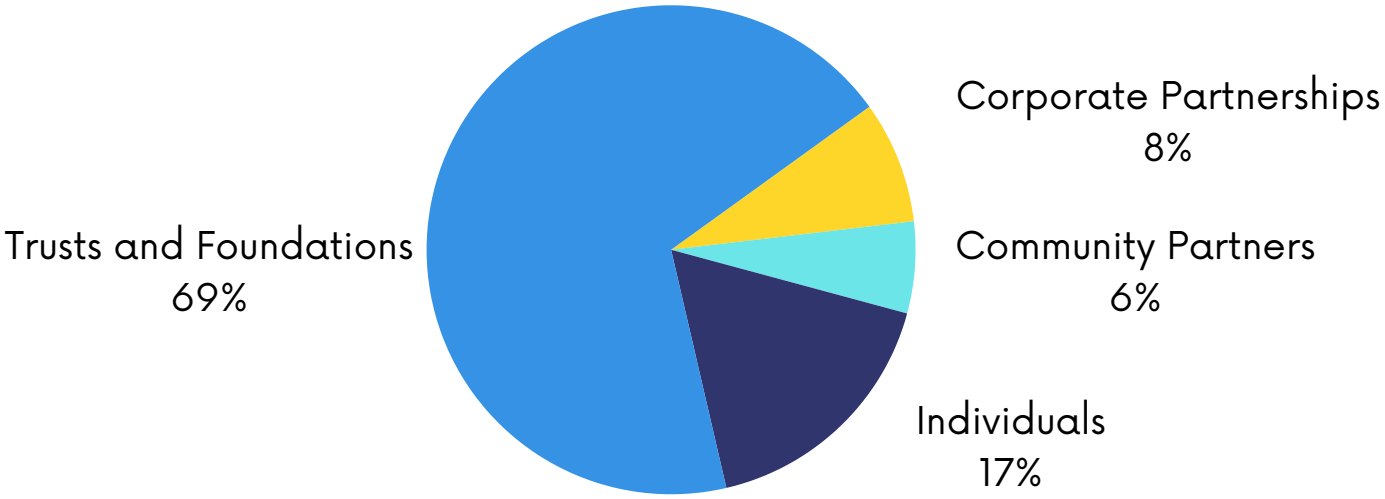
Screen Share UK

Screen Share UK works to ensure every refugee in the UK has access to a connected digital device and the skills to use it to achieve their goals. Screen Share UK led 63 digital support sessions across the year and distributed 14 laptops to our community.

Thank you to the **110 volunteers** who generously gave their time and talents to make this work possible!

Funding Overview

Our income of £529,069 came from:



In 2024-25 we continued to grow our services with the addition of more activities and new partnerships. Reflecting this development, our expenditure increased from £505,227 in 2023-24 to £529,572 in 2024-25. Our fundraising continued to be strong through the year, with a significant grant secured from the Islington Council Borough of Sanctuary and excellent ongoing relationships with long-term funding partners, including Cloudesley, City Bridge Foundation and others.

As the year progressed, we started to feel the effects of a sector-wide downturn in grant giving. In February 2025, we launched an Urgent Fundraising Campaign for the remaining 6 months of the year to address an anticipated £90,000 shortfall in our budget. We are proud to report that by the end of August the **campaign exceeded expectations, raising over £96,000**. The Campaign included appeals to existing donors, holding events at our Centre, taking part in the Big Give and linking with local organisations and businesses which fundraised on our behalf. We are proud that in such a tough economic climate, we achieved an almost balanced budget, spending just £503 of our opening reserves.

Looking ahead, we're approaching 2025-26 with caution. The fundraising landscape remains uncertain. We're managing our expenditure carefully and putting in place measures to strengthen our position, including continuing to focus on diversifying our income so we are more resilient in the current challenging fundraising environment.

Funders

We rely entirely on the kindness and generosity of our supporters. Listed here are the trusts, foundations and companies which made our work possible in 2024-25. There are also many individuals who make our work possible. A huge thank you to each and every supporter!

Funders

Albert Hunt Memorial Trust
Anton Jurgens Charitable Trust
City Bridge Foundation
Charles S French Charitable Trust
Cloudesley
Co-op Local Community Fund
Cripplegate Foundation
Diana Parker Charitable Trust
French Huguenot Church of London Charitable Trust
Garfield Weston Foundation
Hillcote Trust
Islington Council Borough of Sanctuary
Islington Council VCS
Leigh Trust
Lloyds Bank Foundation
London Churches Refugee Fund
M and H Maunsell Charitable Trust
Mbili Charitable Trust
Mercers' Company
National Lottery Awards for All
PALCA Stevenson Giving CIO
Reel Fund via The London Community Foundation
Society of Holy Child Jesus
Souter Charitable Trust
Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation
Swan Mountain Trust
The Blue Thread
The Porta Pia 2012 Foundation
Victoria Wood Foundation
Wates Family Enterprise Trust
Westminster Abbey

Thursday English Class launched in 2024 and funded by Islington Borough of Sanctuary along with other generous funders

Community Partnerships

Heartfelt thanks to our **community partners** including:

Angel Comedy
Arachne Women's Support
Arcola Theatre
Bloody Good Period
British Museum
Christ Church Highbury
Church on the Corner
Cross Street Baptist Church
Culpepper Community Garden
ETC (Education Training Citizenship)
Expert Link
Fund for Human Needs
Houghton University
Islington Library South
King's College London
Lawyers Against Poverty
London College of Communication
London School of Economics
London St Pauli Fan Club
Lucky Generals
Migrateful
National Energy Action (NEA)
NHS Central London Action on Sexual Health (CLASH)
Nisaba
Peel Institute
Pram Depot
Protein Dance
Quentin Blake Centre for Illustration
Routes
Samya Studios
Screen Share UK
Soho Swim
Songworks Choir
Speak Street
Squire Patton Boggs
Steve Hatt
St Andrew's Church
St Mary's Islington
The Coffee Bean
The Funding Network
The Good Things Foundation
Time to Walk that Talk
Toiletries Amnesty
Trampoline Cafe
University College London
Whittington Health (NHS)
World Harmony Orchestra

We are grateful to our many incredible **referral partners** including:

C4WS Winter Night Shelter
Freedom From Torture
Hackney Night Shelter
Helen Bamber Foundation
Mace Housing Cooperative
Manna Society
Refugees at Home
Room for Refugees
Room to Heal
Shelter from the Storm
The Bike Project

Nisaba yoga session for our community at Samya Studios

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements 2024-25

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Reference and Administrative Details

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER:	07076199
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER:	1135205
TRUSTEES:	Victoria Rae (Chair) Charlotte Lilley (Secretary) Imran Malik (Treasurer) Gabrielle Samuels Ghadeer Al-Seragi Gjelina Durgaj Kathy Margerison Margaret Lally Syed Zahid
REGISTERED OFFICE:	Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants Cross Street Baptist Church 16-18 Cross Street London N1 2BG islingtoncentre@gmail.com www.islingtoncentre.co.uk
PRIMARY BANKERS:	The Co-operative Bank PO Box 250, Delf House Southway Skelmersdale WN8 6WT
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:	Mr J P Foxwell FCCA FCIE independent-examiner.net 12 Hillbourne Road Poole BH17 7JB

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees of the charity for the purposes of UK Charity Law are also the directors of the company for the purposes of UK Company Law. The Trustees are responsible for overseeing the overall management and governance of the charity, ensuring it operates in line with its stated purpose, complies with relevant laws, and manages its resources responsibly by making strategic decisions that prioritise the best interests of the beneficiaries, all while acting with reasonable care and skill. The Trustees delegate day-to-day management to the CEO and the leadership team.

The Trustees of Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants ("the Charitable Company" or "Centre") for the purposes of the Companies Act, submit their report and the financial statements for the year ending 31 August 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the governing document, the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice ("SORP") applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

STATUS: The Charitable Company, Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants is:

(a) a company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 13 November 2009 with registered company number 07076199

(b) a charity, registered on 25 March 2010 with charity number 1135205

The Articles of Association is the governing document of the Charitable Company. The limit of the members' guarantee is £10. No provision for taxation has been made on the basis that the Charitable Company is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: The principal activity of the Charitable Company in the year under review was Education - Adult and other education.

CHARITABLE PURPOSES: The Objects as described in the Articles of Association read as follows:

1. To advance education and relieve financial hardship amongst those seeking asylum and those granted refugee status by the provision of advice, training and support.
2. To advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum.
3. To advance the Christian religion by living out our love for neighbour and bringing the stranger of any or no faith into our community.

All work of the Charitable Company has been dedicated to the furtherance of these purposes.

BANK ACCOUNTS

The Centre's main bank account is with the Cooperative Bank. The Centre has a savings deposit account with Triodos Bank UK and no further bank accounts were opened throughout the year. The Centre has an account with PayPal in order to receive online donations. Donations are also received via Charities Aid Foundation, Donorfy and Just Giving donations platforms.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Trustees have given due consideration to the Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit - SORP reference 1.18.

Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants is committed to its charitable purposes in all its activities. The principal activities, in line with the Charity Commission's public benefit description are:

- The advancement of education comprising the delivery of a range of services including English to refugees, asylum seekers and migrants ("Clients"), art and creative writing, dance, choir and exercise based activities in order to build confidence within and up-skill all those who access our services.

- A Support Service offering practical help, referrals, signposting and guidance for Clients needing help on a range of issues including but not limited to asylum, destitution, accommodation, health and accessing benefits.

- Relief of Hardship so destitute Clients have access to a range of services that help to relieve both short-term and long-term hardship. This includes our Support Package programme for destitute asylum seekers. This helps destitute Clients with essential living costs that they would otherwise not be able to afford.

On completing activities at the Centre many of our Clients progress onto their next steps which include further education courses in their chosen subject area, volunteer roles in the community or to paid employment positions. Asylum seekers who are prohibited from working are welcomed to continue attending the Centre while they await the outcome of their asylum application.

The Centre has a comprehensive website and internet profile in order to present its work and the wider impact of its activities and services on refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. It shines a light on the struggles of its service users in order to educate the public on the issues faced by its Clients.

Volunteering is a critical element in the development of a strong community and it is this which mutually benefits the wider community and the Centre. At any given time there are around 40 volunteers contributing to the work of the Centre undertaking activities as varied as preparing food, supporting Clients with their everyday or more complex problems, facilitating arts and craft groups and furthering their experiences of British life through our enrichment programme.

We welcome people who have been displaced from their countries of origin, wherever they have come from, whatever has happened in their lives and regardless of any or no faith. The refugees and migrants who come to us have been through extremely difficult times. Leaving your country because of war, persecution or incarceration takes real grit, determination and courage. But for many, arriving in London is just the beginning of a long journey towards settled status and a decent quality of life.

At Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants, we welcome people, talk with them, listen to what they need and respond to that. Whether someone tells us they need English lessons, advice on housing, accessing healthcare, applying to college or any of the many challenges of being a migrant in London – we are here for our Clients.

THE CHANGE WE WANT TO SEE

We work to ensure positive, sustainable change for asylum seekers, refugees and migrants.

Our Centre is a place where:
- Refugees, asylum seekers and migrants feel safe and welcome
- Refugees, asylum seekers and migrants can meet with each other and with the local community to build friendships and share stories
- Refugees, asylum seekers and migrants are supported to improve their emotional and physical wellbeing

We support our Clients to:
- Be independent and empowered
- Be confident in communicating with people around them, and in a position to seize opportunities to build new skills and experiences
- Have access to income, housing, healthcare, education and a stable immigration status

We do this through providing the following services and activities:

- **A warm welcome,** safe space and a sense of community at our in-person Centres and online.

- **English language** lessons to improve Clients' language skills and to give a sense of community and connection. We strongly believe that overcoming language barriers is key to allowing people to integrate in their communities.

- **Support Service** to provide support, signposting and referrals to help overcome and resolve Clients' issues including asylum, housing, homelessness, destitution and health.

- **Support Packages** to provide asylum seekers in destitution access to essential food, phone and data top ups, travel and other essential items.

- **Online and In-Person Activities** including art and writing, gym, choir, yoga, book group, information sessions with external partners, dance and community trips that build fluency and confidence in speaking English.

- **Digital Inclusion** to help people to feel confident online though: (i) providing phones/laptops to those without equipment, (ii) assistance by phone or online to help people use equipment and IT and (iii) assistance with digital issues at our Centres.

- **Hot food** and lunches at our in-person Centres.

- **Donations** of toiletries, food and clothes.

- **Access to sanitary products** and other related items through our partnerships and donations.

- **Sharing our work** with the community to encourage support and to better understand our Clients.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (CONTINUED)

TRUSTEES

The trustees (who also act as directors for Companies Act purposes) who served during the year 2024-25 are as follows:

	Appointment Start	Appointment End
Victoria Rae (Chair)	17/01/22	Continuing
Teresa Dodgson (Secretary)	21/06/12	05/06/2025
Imran Malik (Treasurer)	15/05/23	Continuing
Gladys Jusu-Sheriff	21/06/12	30/01/2026
Kathy Margerison	14/03/22	Continuing
Francis Bowondo	13/03/23	05/08/2025
Gabrielle Samuels	15/05/23	Continuing
Charlotte Lilley	15/05/23	Continuing
Ghadeer Al-Seragi	10/07/23	Continuing
Gjelina Durgaj	22/09/25	Continuing
Margaret Lally	22/09/25	Continuing
Syed Zahid	22/09/25	Continuing

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of the Charitable Company's affairs and of the surplus or deficit for the year.

In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for:

- ensuring proper accounting records are maintained which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity; and
- safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- agreement on strategy and an annual budget approved by the Trustees;
- regular consideration by the Trustees of financial results, variance from budgets, and non-financial performance indicators;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks; and
- adequate unrestricted funds remain in place to meet the future projected financial commitments in a 12 month period from the year end.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Trustees have developed and work closely with an active risk register in order to manage any issues and to minimise disruption in the event of a realised risk.

The Centre has insurance policies as follows:

- Employers' Liability insurance with Markel International Insurance Company Limited
- Public Liability insurance with Markel International Insurance Company Limited
- Directors and Officers Management Liability Insurance with Marsh Omega

The Centre has in place the following policies:

Safeguarding Policy suite for vulnerable adults and children that it works with

Health and Safety Policy

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Privacy and Data Protection Policy

Finance Policy and Procedure (including delegation of authority matrix)

Reserves Policy

Investment Policy

Pay and Reward Policy

Grievance/Disciplinary Procedure

Complaints Procedure

Incident Reporting Procedure

Business Continuity Plan

The Trustees have prepared and agreed to comply to a Trustee Code of Conduct

All Centre Personnel agree to comply with a Centre Code of Conduct as part of our safeguarding commitment to our Clients.

RESERVES

Reserves Statement:
The net current assets at year end 31 August 2025 of £240,986 (at year end 31 August 2024 £241,489) comprise restricted funds of £68,934 and unrestricted reserves of £172,052 (at year end 31 August 2024 £199,826). The unrestricted reserves represent 3.8 months of the total expenditure budget for year 2025-26 (compared to year end 31 August 2024 of 4.3 months of expenditure budget for 24-25).

Designated Redundancy Fund:
£28,000 has been designated to a redundancy fund giving free undesignated reserves of £144,052. The free reserves element of the current assets represents approximately 3.1 months' running costs of the expenditure budget for year 2025-26.

Reserves Policy:
The policy is to maintain unrestricted funds of between 3 to 6 months of average operating costs as an Operating Reserve Fund to ensure the sustainability of the Charitable Company and future delivery and development of services.

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 30 March 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Victoria Rae
Chair of Trustees

Independent Examiner's Report To The Trustees Of Islington Centre For Refugees And Migrants

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2025 which comprise a Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and related notes.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's Trustees of the Charitable Company (and also its Directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Charitable Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your Charitable Company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Charitable Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of both the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and the Association of Charity Independent Examiners (ACIE), both of which are listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charitable Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice ("SORP") for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mr J P Foxwell FCCA FCIE
independent-examiner.net

12 Hillbourne Road
Poole
BH17 7JB

Date: 30 March 2026

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2025 (including an Income and Expenditure Account)

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2025 £	2024 £ (Restated - Note 11)
INCOME					
Donations and legacies		240,407	23,000	263,407	143,688
Activities for generating funds		156	-	156	-
Charitable activities	2	41,833	223,311	265,144	355,523
Other income		362	-	362	60
Total income		282,758	246,311	529,069	499,271
EXPENDITURE					
Costs of generating income		78,461	14,190	92,651	59,224
Charitable activities		232,072	204,849	436,921	446,003
Total expenditure	3	310,533	219,039	529,572	505,227
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds		**(27,775)**	**27,272**	**(503)**	**(5,956)**
Funds brought forward		199,827	41,662	241,489	247,445
Funds carried forward		172,052	68,934	240,986	241,489

The Statement of Financial Activities reflects the results of continuing activities for the year.

There are no recognised gains and losses other than those shown in the Statement of Financial Activities.

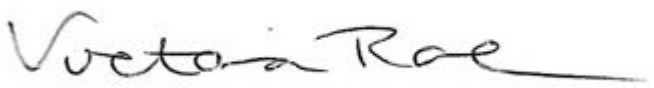
Balance Sheet at 31 August 2025

	Notes	£	2025 £	£	2024 £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors and accrued income	5	-		10,417	
Cash at bank and in hand		243,666		260,905	
		243,666		**271,322**	
CREDITORS – amounts falling due in less than one year	6	(2,680)		(29,833)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			**£240,986**		**£241,489**
FUNDS					
General fund			144,052		171,827
Designated fund	7		28,000		28,000
Total unrestricted funds			172,052		199,827
Restricted funds	10		68,934		41,662
Total funds			**£240,986**		**£241,489**

The Directors are satisfied that the Charitable Company is entitled to exemption from the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act") relating to the audit of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 by virtue of section 477, and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the 2006 Act.

The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the 2006 Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the Trustees on 30 March 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



Victoria Rae
Chair of Trustees

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice ("SORP") applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015) – Charities SORP (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

There have been no changes in accounting policies or application of such policies during the year.

(a) Company status

The Charitable Company is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company are those persons included in the register of members and include the Trustees named on page 24.

In the event of the Charitable Company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member.

(b) Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charitable Company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

(c) Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charitable Company is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

(d) Pensions

During the financial year ending 31 August 2025 pension provision continued with the employer's contribution being 8% for all eligible staff. The Centre adheres to the Auto Enrolment Scheme and is compliant with the requirements as set out by the Pensions Regulator.
The Centre's pensions' service provider is The Pensions Trust.

(e) Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Governance costs, now included within charitable activity costs, are those incurred in connection with administration of the Charitable Company and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

2. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
CAF Keystone Fund	-	-	-	35,000
City Bridge Foundation	-	45,269	45,269	49,443
Cloudesley (Principal Grant Extension)	-	35,000	35,000	35,000
Cloudesley (Catalyst)	-	5,000	5,000	4,993
Cloudesley (Welfare)	-	15,000	15,000	15,000
Cloudesley (Presentation)	-	-	-	150
Cloudesley (Welfare Uplift)	-	5,000	5,000	5,000
Crippegate Foundation	-	1,000	1,000	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	-	-	25,000
Islington Council VCS	-	39,583	39,583	20,417
Islington Council's Borough of Sanctuary	-	25,000	25,000	-
Lloyds Bank Foundation	-	-	-	23,000
Lloyds Bank Foundation (Uplift)	-	-	-	2,500
Lloyds Bank Foundation (Specialist Programme)	20,833	-	20,833	4,167
London Churches Refugee Fund	-	1,900	1,900	1,650
The Mercers' Company	21,000	-	21,000	25,000
National Lottery - Awards for All	-	20,000	20,000	-
National Lottery - Reaching Communities	-	-	-	30,000
National Lottery - Community Organisation Cost of Living Fund	-	-	-	59,215
Society of the Holy Child Jesus	-	15,000	15,000	-
Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation	-	15,559	15,559	19,989
	41,833	**223,311**	**265,144**	**355,523**

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

3. COSTS OF ACTIVITIES IN FURTHERANCE OF THE CHARITABLE OBJECTS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024 (as restated)
	£	£	£	£
Clients activities	3,922	2,133	6,055	10,707
Client hardship payments	30,666	41,298	71,964	78,062
Client travel and subsistence	3,375	500	3,875	3,594
Governance	2,835	1,195	4,030	3,516
Running Costs	34,494	15,442	49,936	33,391
Salaries and associated on costs	142,219	133,705	275,924	283,444
Sessional workers	12,440	8,119	20,559	23,022
Staff and volunteer development	1,247	1,305	2,552	8,099
Volunteer costs	873	1,153	2,026	2,168
Fundraising	78,462	14,189	92,651	59,224
	310,533	**219,039**	**529,572**	**505,227**

4. STAFF COSTS

	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£
Salaries and wages	315,927	293,815
Social security costs	24,411	23,803
Pension costs	25,477	23,552
	£365,815	£341,170

Staff costs exclude payroll service provider costs.
One employee received employee benefits within £60,000 - £70,000 band during the year (2024: 1).
The average monthly headcount was 10 staff (2024: 9 staff).

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

5. DEBTORS AND ACCRUED INCOME

	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£
Accrued grant income	£0	£10,417

6. CREDITORS AND DEFERRED INCOME

	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£
Creditors	2,680	2,000
Deferred grant income	0	27,833
	£2,680	£29,833

7. DESIGNATED FUND

The Trustees have designated £28,000 as a contingency against unexpected staff costs. (2024: £28,000).

8. TRUSTEES

No Trustee received any remuneration during the year. No expenses were reimbursed to any Trustee during the year ending 31 August 2025 (2024: nil).

9. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Current assets	174,732	68,934	243,666	271,322
Creditors	(2,680)	-	(2,680)	(29,833)
	£172,052	£68,934	£240,986	£241,489

10. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance b/f £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance c/f £
Islington Council VCS	-	39,583	(25,000)	14,583
Islington Council Borough of Sanctuary	-	25,000	(6,250)	18,750
London Churches Refugee Fund	-	1,900	(1,900)	-
Cloudesley (Catalyst)	1,660	5,000	(5,000)	1,660
Cloudesley (Welfare)	-	15,000	(15,000)	-
Cloudesley (Welfare Uplift)	-	5,000	(5,000)	-
Cloudesley (Principal Grant Extension)	2,917	35,000	(35,000)	2,917
City Bridge Foundation	10,586	45,269	(42,998)	12,857
Cripplegate Foundation	-	1,000	(1,000)	-
Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation	-	15,559	(15,559)	-
Reel Fund	-	10,000	(10,000)	-
Society of the Holy Child Jesus	-	15,000	(15,000)	-
National Lottery Awards for All	-	20,000	(3,333)	16,667
The French Huguenot Church of London Charitable Trust	-	5,000	(5,000)	-
Swan Mountain Trust	1,500	3,000	(3,000)	1,500
Victoria Wood Foundation	-	5,000	(5,000)	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	25,000	-	(25,000)	-
	41,663	**246,311**	**(219,040)**	**68,934**

11. RESTATEMENT OF COMPARATIVE FIGURES

The expenditure figures for 2024 have been restated on the face of the Statement of Financial Activities to more accurately reflect the payroll costs of the fundraisers as costs of raising funds rather than charitable expenditure. This restatement does not affect total expenditure, split of unrestricted to restricted funds, or the balance sheet totals in any way, but aids comparison from year to year.

Contact Us

Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants
is a registered charity in England and Wales
Charity number: 1135205
Company number: 07076199

Email
info@islingtoncentre.co.uk

Website
islingtoncentre.co.uk

Location
16-18 Cross Street
London N1 2BG

Social Media
Facebook: @IslingtonCentre
Instagram: @IslingtonCentre

ISLINGTON CENTRE FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1135205

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT

2023 - 2024

ISLINGTON CENTRE
FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

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CEO Message

The last year has been one of many challenges for refugees and people seeking asylum in the UK. 2023-24 saw repeated attempts by the Government at the time to fly migrants to Rwanda, followed by riots over the summer - all of which contributed to an increasingly hostile environment. We are proud that we were here throughout, offering unwavering support to the 202 people in our community.

Everyone who comes to us is working hard to create a better life in the UK. Our role is to provide the emotional support, practical tools and a sense of belonging people need to feel empowered and move forward in their lives.

Over the last year, we offered English classes, our creative and expressive sessions like art and writing, choir, dance and yoga, hot lunches, cultural trips and so much more. Alongside our classes and activities we offered casework to support people as they worked to overcome challenges like homelessness and seeking legal representation. This resulted in significant success for many people, as you will see in our outcomes figures on page 9.

Meanwhile, 2023-24 was a year of organisational progress for us too, with work to strengthen and develop our leadership team and a project to review our monitoring and evaluation methods with support from an external consultant. As an organisation, we are constantly developing to keep ahead, the impact of which can be seen in the pages of this report.

ANDY RUIZ PALMA

Message from our Board Chair

[Board Chair Victoria Rae pictured left with English student pictured right]

As I reflect on the past year at Islington Centre, the recurring image that comes to my mind is the door to our base at Cross Street. It looks like an ordinary London street but behind it is the beating heart of what we do. Step inside and there is an overwhelming sense of welcome, lively talk, the noise of an enthusiastic dance class, tables set up for classes or space for one-to-one support. Now that we are replicating this with two other hubs in Islington and a full timetable of online activities is testament to the community that we provide for our clients; a haven of belonging.

This is set against an external environment for refugees, asylum seekers and migrants that is hostile; from the day-to-day challenges of getting by in times of rising prices to the waves of hate and violence in August 2024. We know that our clients felt traumatised, scared to go out. We were there for them, including some funders who unprompted made additional donations in a heartfelt gesture of generosity and friendship.

The Board and I are proud of the difference that we can make in people's lives and wellbeing as you will see in the following pages. During the year we have developed a robust organisational staff structure as part of the first strategic objective to enable the Centre to be the best it can be. And we have invested in gathering data and client voices in order to better show our work. At the very centre are our clients, responding to where we can help them most and designing our services from this.

This year has seen success in terms of funding from our generous supporters, trusts, foundations and companies. We thank them for their support and confidence in our work. It is the board's duty to look ahead and we know that across the UK charity sector there are real pressures as funders begin to tighten the amount they can give in the face of greatly increased demand and applications. We are planning for how this might impact us.

Most importantly I pay tribute to our talented staff team, welcoming new faces who have joined us this year and to our growing number of volunteers who give time and boundless energy to everything we do. This year saw the retirement of Victor de Waal after many years of invaluable wisdom as both Chair and Trustee. I thank him and our fellow board members who bring a diverse range of expertise and like me, find inspiration in visits to the Centre, joining with clients in activities and being an important part of the vibrant and hopeful community that is Islington Centre.

VICTORIA RAE, Board Chair

Message from our Patron

The Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants is a lifeline for people who have been forced to flee their homes, arriving in the UK with little but hope and resilience. Now, more than ever, this community needs our support. The Centre provides essential services—English lessons, legal advice, wellbeing support, and, most importantly, a sense of belonging. Without it, many would be left struggling in isolation, unable to rebuild their lives.

Meeting the people who rely on the Centre is profoundly moving. Their courage in the face of hardship is extraordinary, and the warmth and kindness within this community are deeply inspiring. I am so proud to be a Patron of this remarkable charity, which stands for compassion, dignity, and humanity. If you can support its work, please do—because together, we can change lives.

JULIET STEVENSON CBE, Actor

In conversation
with Juliet Stevenson and Joseph

Below is a conversation between the patron of the Islington Centre, Juliet Stevenson CBE, an English screen and stage actor, and one of our community members, Joseph. Joseph shares in his own words what it means to have community, encouragement, and support as he continues to build his new life in the UK.

What was it like when you first joined the community at the Islington Centre?

At that time I was homeless. I had nowhere to go. No support. Coming to Islington Centre really did change my life because I was able to get - not everything that I needed - but most of my important needs were met by Islington Centre.

What were you feeling after joining the Islington Centre?

I got my mental health back – well not 100% back – but it was much better than it was before. Islington Centre helped me in finding my feet. Prior to that, I felt like a non-entity, lifeless, hopeless and joining the Centre gave me that hope. Being part of a community, it gave that sense of belonging, you know, this was like a home. A home from home.

What activities and interests did you start to explore?

Back home, I was missing some of my education, so when I joined Islington Centre I was supported to go to college. I studied IT. I did up to level three. I had Islington Centre's support and encouragement to get education. Also, I needed a computer back then and Islington Centre was able to provide me with that important device so that I could study.

About Us

Mission

To offer people the emotional support, practical tools and sense of community they need to build a happy life in the UK.

Vision

We envisage a world where refugees, asylum seekers and migrants are integrated fully into their new communities with equal access to opportunities to progress their lives and fulfil their potential.

Values

01 Offering a warm welcome to all who come to us

02 Working together to put the client first

03 Care and compassion

04 Respect and dignity for all

05 Improving our working model from our own learning

06 Showing grit and determination to be here for our clients

What We Do

Classes and Activities

Our comprehensive offering of classes and therapeutic activities includes English, art and writing, yoga, gym, exercise, dance, choir, and a sports discussion group. Classes are aimed at increasing language proficiency, improving physical and mental wellbeing and building a sense of community. Last year we offered 1,500 classes both online and in-person.

> When I first came to the Centre it was a turning point and bright spot in my life. Before I always feel lonely because I didn't know anyone in the UK or speak any English. After coming to the Centre, I enjoy so many classes that encourage me. I feel now that I can speak much easier than before. I can express myself. I am very proud now."

Support Service

The Support Service provides expert advice and one-to-one casework to overcome barriers migrants often face. Last year we supported 72 to have safe housing, 55 people to see a solicitor and get the legal support they needed to advance their asylum case, 62 people to apply for college and so much more.

Centre Days

Every week, our Centre Days operate as a community hub with a space for migrants to come together, join engaging sessions, access advice, meet others, take items from the 'free shop', enjoy a shared meal, and feel at home in community space at our three sites in Islington. Last year we offered 80 Centre Days with over 16,000 attendances in total.

Support Packages

Through our Support Package financial hardship grants scheme, people seeking asylum who are facing destitution avoid hunger, have the means to buy essentials and can live with dignity. We are proud that last year we distributed £80,000+ in 2,700+ disbursements.

> "The Islington Centre has been my companion. They have arranged for whatever my baby needs and baby clothes. They give us some money so we can buy what we need. We can buy some food to eat or to travel. From English lessons we learn a lot of things. Whatever you need, you can learn from there. I love this Centre and is so beneficial."

Digital Inclusion

Online access is vital to securing resources, attending online classes, and pursuing education. Last year we distributed 89 smartphones and laptops and empowered our community to feel confident online through 1-1 digital support sessions.

Outcomes

Across the year our community of 202 people achieved many positive outcomes in their lives through their own hard work and the advocacy, referrals and casework of our Support Service. Our Support Service offers advice on a wide range of issues, including healthcare, education and housing and is registered with the Immigration Advice Authority (formerly Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner, OISC) to provide advice at Level 1 (Asylum and Protection). Last year the issues people overcame through our referrals and support included:

25 people **gained permission to stay in the UK**

33 people accessed **food banks**

72 people avoided street-sleeping and had safe **housing**

46 people saw a doctor or dentist to get **healthcare**

88 people **negotiated the asylum system**

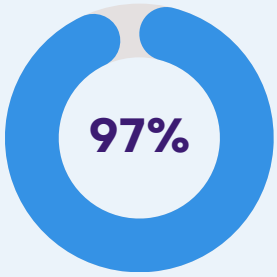
62 people applied to further their **education**

55 people accessed **legal support**

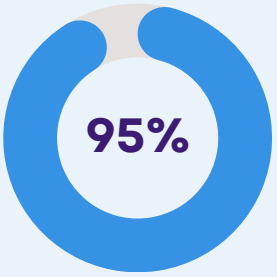
22 people created CVs and sought **employment**

Outcomes

We closely monitor the services we offer to ensure that they are genuinely the services our community needs. We collect feedback twice each year, with a co-created survey to new starters every February and for all community members every July. Below are the results from our full community survey about the Centre's impact over the last 12 months:

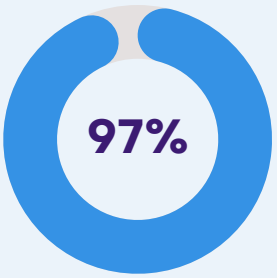


Quality of Life Improved

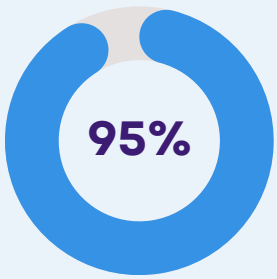


English Improved

Less Stressed



Less Isolated



Physical Wellbeing Improved

More Empowered

"I like meeting people here. It makes me feel happy."

- Sade (not her real name)

“Before I come here I'm always sad. But when I'm coming here and you see a lot of people it's so nice and helps a lot. Coming here even to dance is something great in my life. I cherish it.”

- Francine (not her real name)

Our Year In Numbers

1,077
English Classes

440
Therapeutic Arts + Fitness Classes

80
In-person Centre Days

1,772
Support Service Appointments

2,725
Support Packages

1,760
Home-cooked Meals Served

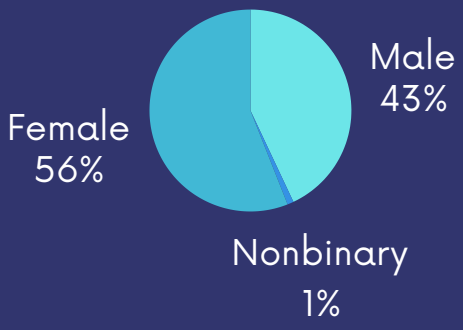
19
Cultural + Educational Trips

89
Laptops + Phones Distributed

Our Community

Our approach is not institutional, but compassionate and human. We have been in London for 27 years and have built many long-standing relationships with our 202 community members who originate from more than 40 countries.

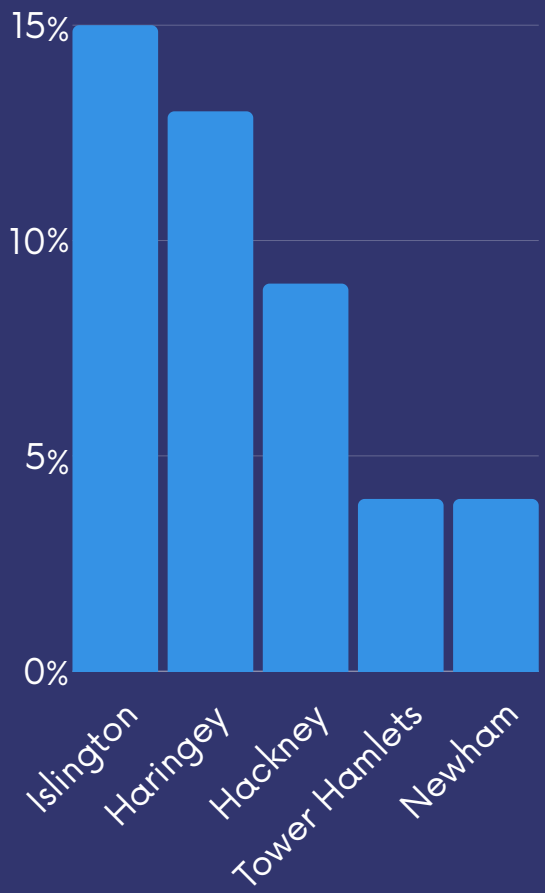
Gender



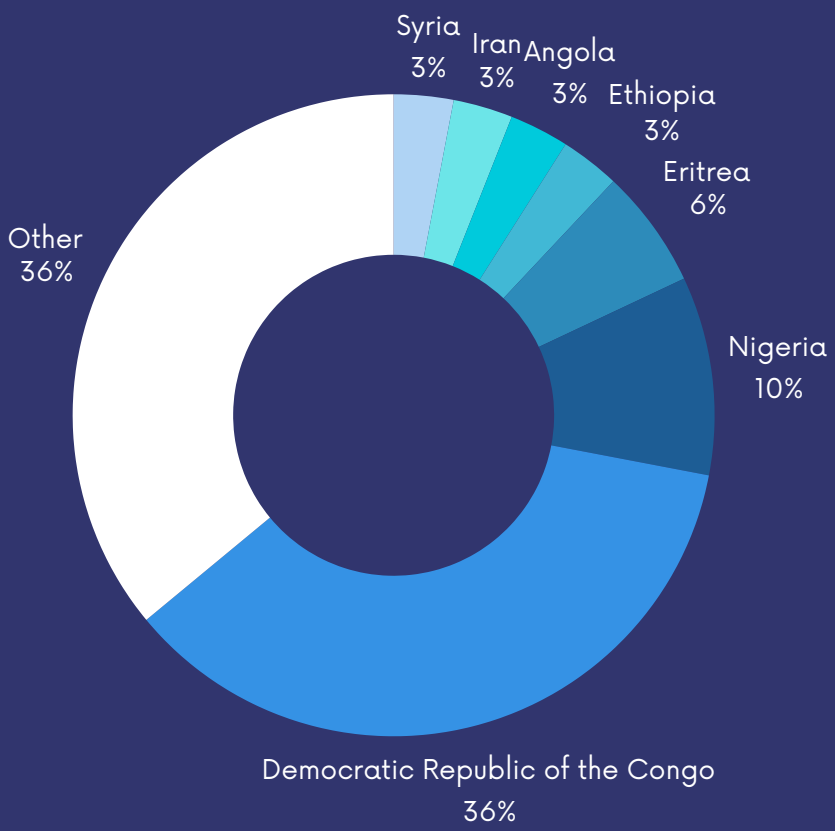
Destitution*

*People who are not legally allowed to work or access government support

Top 5 Boroughs



Country of Origin



“I've had a lot of problems which have happened to me but since I've started coming to the Centre it's strengthened me. Thank you for giving me this space.”

- Joshua (not his real name)

Community Stories

Gladys

"I come to the Centre because they help me a lot with many things including paperwork and legal matters. I come here to see people and make friends. It's great to mix with people from different cultures. I make an effort to come every week because it's really important for me. I have even participated in singing and dancing projects. It's a great stress-buster!"

Amba

"I come here for help with the difficulties experienced by me and my family. It's a relief to be able to come to the Centre for support. I hope to be able to continue coming to the Centre until our lives are on track."

Partnerships

We partner with Speak Street, which provides fun, high-quality English classes. Speak Street leads an online English class for our community each week with **40 sessions across the year** as well as monthly field trips to art galleries with **11 art trips last year**.

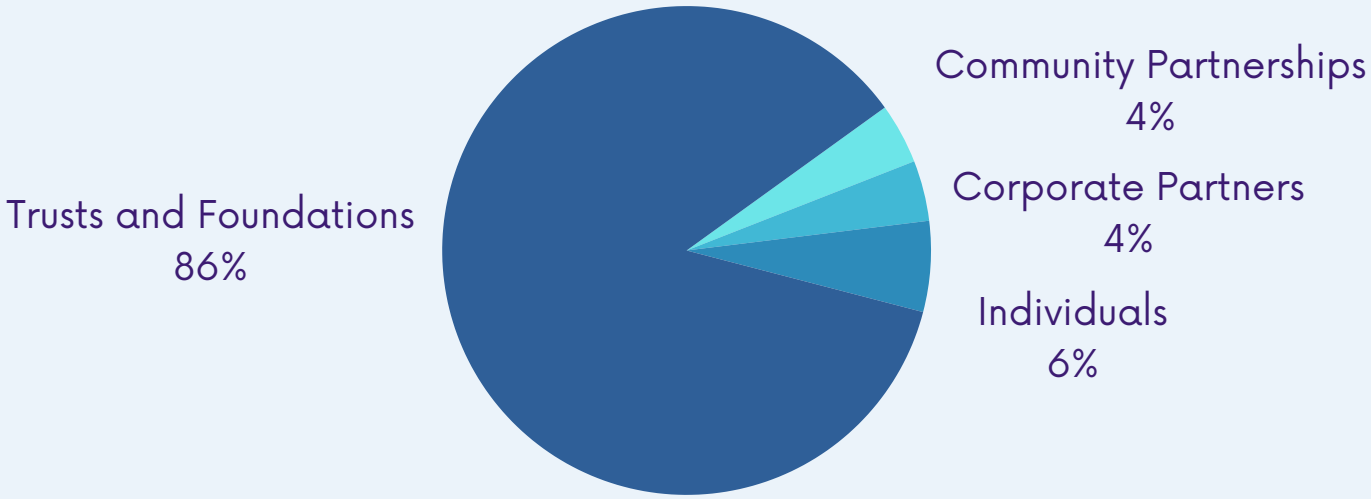
We partner with Bloody Good Period, working together to ensure dignity through accessibility of period products to people in our community. Last year we **distributed 340 orders** directly to people's homes, **including 20,000 individual items.**

Lawyers Against Poverty leads a weekly online session providing information to our community in the areas of public law, social welfare, housing and homelessness, and immigration and asylum with **51 sessions across the year.**

NHS Central London Action on Sexual Health (CLASH) provides free and confidential sexual health advice sessions to our community with **11 sessions across the year.**

Funding Overview

Our income of £499,271 came from:



In 2023/24 we continued to grow our services with the addition of more activities and new partnerships. Reflecting this development, our expenditure increased from £447,652 in 2022/23 to £505,227 in 2023/24. Our fundraising continued to be strong through the year, with a significant one-off grant secured from the National Lottery's Cost of Living Fund and excellent ongoing relationships with long-term funding partners, including Cloudesley, Islington Council, the City Bridge Foundation and others.

As the year progressed - like many small charities - we started to feel the effects of a sector-wide downturn in grant giving. Long-term low interest rates, the cost of living crisis and low returns on investments meant many funders began closing down funds, pausing funds or limiting their giving to very specific causes. We are proud that in such a tough economic climate, we were able to continue developing our services and achieved an almost balanced budget, spending just £5,956 of our reserves.

Moving into 2024/25 we knew that the fundraising environment would continue to be uncertain and put in place measures to strengthen our position, including recruiting a job share for our Head of Fundraising (part-time), creating a 5 year fundraising strategy and focusing on diversifying our income so we are more resilient in where our funding comes from.

Our Funders

We rely entirely on the kindness and generosity of our supporters. Listed here are the trusts, foundations and companies which made our work possible in 2023-24. There are also many individuals who make our work possible. A huge thank you to each and every supporter!

Funders

Action Funder - Greene King
CAF Keystone Fund
Church on the Corner
City Bridge Foundation
Cloudesley
Coop Local Community Fund
Cripplegate Foundation
Garfield Weston Foundation
Hope Church Islington
Islington Council (via the VCS fund)
Joffe Books Limited
Leigh Charitable Trust
Lewis Communications Ltd
Lloyds Bank Foundation
London Catalyst
London Churches Refugee Fund
Macquarie Group
New Unity Church
New York University in London
Peter Stebbings Memorial Charity
Protein Dance Limited
Reel Fund
Semble Network Ltd
Songworks Choir
Souter Charitable Trust
St Mary's Church Islington
Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation
The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust
The Albert Hunt Trust
The Calypso Browning Trust
The Diana Parker Charitable Trust
The French Huguenot Church of London Charitable Trust
The Hilcote Trust
The Irving Memorial Trust
The Mercers' Company
The Mishcon Family Trust
The Mrs Smith & Mount Trust
The National Lottery Reaching Communities
The National Lottery's Community Organization Cost of Living Fund
The Porta Pia 2012 Foundation
The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Thomas
The Swan Mountain Trust
The Worshipful Company of Insurers
Three Hands Ltd
Together for London - London Community Foundation
Tyl by Natwest
Waylan Trust
Westminster Abbey

Thanks to the Graduate Volunteers and Macquarie Group for their amazing support

Community Support

Heartfelt thanks to our community partners:

- Arcola Theatre
- Barts and The London University Islamic Society
- Bellow Fellows
- Christ Church Highbury
- Church on the Corner
- Cross Street Baptist Church
- Crouch End Festival Chorus
- ETC Education
- GAIL's Bakery Islington
- Haberdashers' Girls' School
- Houghton University of New York
- Islington Choir
- Islington South Library
- Joffe Books Limited
- London St Pauli Fan Club
- LSE
- Macquarie Group
- NHS Whittington Health
- Nisaba
- NYU Shine Project
- Protein Dance
- Proud Sports
- Smith&Nephew
- Songworks Choir
- Speak Street
- Steve Hatt
- St Andrew's Church
- St Mary's Islington Church
- World Harmony Orchestra

Thank you to the **90 volunteers across the year** who generously gave their time and talents to make this work possible!

"Anytime I go to Islington Cenre I am so happy to get see all the people and my friends. I always look forward and know that something positive is happening in the week. **You can feel the joy.**"

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements

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Reference and Administrative Details

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER:	07076199
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER:	1135205
TRUSTEES:	Victoria Rae (Chair) Teresa Dodgson (Secretary) Imran Malik (Treasurer) Charlotte Lilley Francis Bowondo Gabrielle Samuels Ghadeer Al-Seragi Gladys Jusu-Sheriff Kathy Margerison
REGISTERED OFFICE:	Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants Cross Street Baptist Church 16-18 Cross Street London N1 2BG islingtoncentre@gmail.com www.islingtoncentre.co.uk
PRIMARY BANKERS:	The Co-operative Bank PO Box 250, Delf House Southway Skelmersdale WN8 6WT
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:	Mr J P Foxwell FCCA FCIE independent-examiner.net PO Box 9846 Poole BH15 9JZ

Trustees' Annual Report

The Trustees of the charity for the purposes of UK Charity Law are also the directors of the company for the purposes of UK Company Law. The Trustees are responsible for overseeing the overall management and governance of the charity, ensuring it operates in line with its stated purpose, complies with relevant laws, and manages its resources responsibly by making strategic decisions that prioritise the best interests of the beneficiaries, all while acting with reasonable care and skill. The Trustees delegate day-to-day management to the CEO and the leadership team.

The Trustees of Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants ("the Charitable Company" or "Centre") for the purposes of the Companies Act, submit their report and the financial statements for the year ending 31 August 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the governing document, the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice ("SORP") applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

STATUS: The Charitable Company, Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants is:

(a) a company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 13 November 2009 with registered company number 07076199

(b) a charity, registered on 25 March 2010 with charity number 1135205

The Articles of Association is the governing document of the Charitable Company. The limit of the members' guarantee is £10. No provision for taxation has been made on the basis that the Charitable Company is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: The principal activity of the Charitable Company in the year under review was Education - Adult and other education.

CHARITABLE PURPOSES: The Objects as described in the Articles of Association read as follows:

1. To advance education and relieve financial hardship amongst those seeking asylum and those granted refugee status by the provision of advice, training and support.
2. To advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum.
3. To advance the Christian religion by living out our love for neighbour and bringing the stranger of any or no faith into our community.

All work of the Charitable Company has been dedicated to the furtherance of these purposes.

BANK ACCOUNTS

The Centre's main bank account is with the Cooperative Bank. The Centre has a savings deposit account with Triodos Bank UK and no further bank accounts were opened throughout the year. The Centre has an account with PayPal in order to receive online donations. Donations are also received via Charities Aid Foundation, Donorfy and Just Giving donations platforms

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Trustees have given due consideration to the Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit - SORP reference 1.18.

Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants is committed to its charitable purposes in all its activities. The principal activities, in line with the Charity Commission's public benefit description are:

- The advancement of education comprising the delivery of a range of services including English to refugees, asylum seekers and migrants ("Clients"), art and creative writing, dance, choir and exercise based activities in order to build confidence within and up-skill all those who access our services.

- A Support Service offering practical help, referrals, signposting and guidance for Clients needing help on a range of issues including but not limited to asylum, destitution, accommodation, health and accessing benefits.

- Relief of Hardship so destitute Clients have access to a range of services that help to relieve both short-term and long-term hardship. This includes our Support Package programme for destitute asylum seekers. This helps destitute Clients with essential living costs that they would otherwise not be able to afford.

On completing activities at the Centre many of our Clients progress onto their next steps which includes further education courses in their chosen subject area, volunteer roles in the community or to paid employment positions. Asylum seekers who are prohibited from working are welcomed to continue attending the Centre while they await the outcome of their asylum application.

The Centre has a comprehensive website and internet profile in order to present its work and the wider impact of its activities and services on refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. It shines a light on the struggles of its service users in order to educate the public on the issues faced by its Clients.

Volunteering is a critical element in the development of a strong community and it is this which mutually benefits the wider community and the Centre. At any given time there are around 40 volunteers contributing to the work of the Centre undertaking activities as varied as preparing food parcels, supporting Clients with their everyday or more complex problems, facilitating arts and craft groups and furthering their experiences of British life through our enrichment programme.

We welcome people who have been displaced from their countries of origin, wherever they have come from, whatever has happened in their lives and regardless of any or no faith. The refugees and migrants who come to us have been through extremely difficult times. Leaving your country because of war, persecution or incarceration takes real grit, determination and courage. But for many, arriving in London is just the beginning of a long journey towards settled status and a decent life.

At the Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants, we welcome people, talk with them, listen to what they need and respond to that. Whether someone tells us they need English lessons, advice on housing, accessing healthcare, applying to college or any of the many challenges of being a migrant in London – we are here for our Clients.

THE CHANGE WE WANT TO SEE

We work to ensure positive, sustainable change for asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants.

Our Centre is a place where:
- Refugees, asylum seekers and migrants feel safe and welcome
- Refugees, asylum seekers and migrants can meet with each other and with the local community to build friendships and share stories
- Refugees, asylum seekers and migrants are supported to improve their emotional and physical wellbeing

We support our Clients to:
- Be independent and empowered
- Be confident in communicating with people around them, and in a position to seize opportunities to build new skills and experiences
- Have access to income, housing, healthcare, education and a stable immigration status

We do this through providing the following services and activities:

- **A warm welcome,** safe space and a sense of community at our in-person Centres and online.

- **English language** lessons to improve Clients' language skills and to give a sense of community and connection. We strongly believe that overcoming language barriers is key to allowing people to integrate in their communities.

- **Support Service** to provide support, signposting and referrals to help overcome and resolve Clients' issues including asylum, housing, homelessness, destitution and health.

- **Support Packages** to provide asylum seekers in destitution access to essential food, phone and data top ups, travel and other essential items.

- **Online and In-Person Activities** including art and writing, gym, choir, yoga, book group, information sessions with external partners, dance and community trips that build fluency and confidence in speaking English.

- **Digital Inclusion** to help people to feel confident online though: (i) providing phones/laptops to those without equipment, (ii) assistance by phone or online to help people use equipment and IT and (iii) assistance with digital issues at our In-Person Centre days.

- **Hot food** and lunches at our in-person Centres.

- **Donations** of toiletries, food and clothes.

- **Access to sanitary products** and other related items through our partnerships and donations.

- **Sharing our work** with the community to encourage support and to better understand our Clients.

TRUSTEES

The trustees (who also act as directors for Companies Act purposes) who served during the year 2023-24 are as follows:

	Appointment Start	Appointment End
Victoria Rae (Chair)	17/01/22	Continuing
Teresa Dodgson (Secretary)	21/06/12	Continuing
Imran Malik (Treasurer)	15/05/23	Continuing
Rev Victor de Waal	01/09/10	02/05/24
Gladys Jusu-Sheriff	21/06/12	Continuing
Kathy Margerison	14/03/22	Continuing
Francis Bowondo	13/03/23	Continuing
Gabrielle Samuels	15/05/23	Continuing
Charlotte Lilley	15/05/23	Continuing
Ghadeer Al-Seragi	10/07/23	Continuing
Alice Billin	10/07/23	26/01/24

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of the Charitable Company's affairs and of the surplus or deficit for the year.

In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for:

- ensuring proper accounting records are maintained which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity; and
- safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- agreement on strategy and an annual budget approved by the Trustees;
- regular consideration by the Trustees of financial results, variance from budgets, and non-financial performance indicators;

- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks; and
- adequate unrestricted funds remain in place to meet the future projected financial commitments in a 12 month period from the year end.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Trustees have developed and work closely with an active risk register in order to manage any issues and to minimise disruption in the event of a realised risk.

The Centre has insurance policies as follows:

- Employers' Liability insurance with Markel International Insurance Company Limited
- Public Liability insurance with Markel International Insurance Company Limited
- Directors and Officers Management Liability Insurance with Marsh Omega

The Centre has in place the following policies:

Safeguarding Policy suite for vulnerable adults and children that it works with

Health and Safety Policy

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Privacy and Data Protection Policy

Finance Policy and Procedure (including delegation of authority matrix)

Reserves Policy

Investment Policy

Pay and Reward Policy

Grievance/Disciplinary Procedure

Complaints Procedure

Incident Reporting Procedure

Business Continuity Plan

The Trustees have prepared and agreed to comply to a Trustee Code of Conduct

All Centre Personnel agree to comply with a Centre Code of Conduct as part of our safeguarding commitment to our Clients.

RESERVES

Reserves Statement:
The net current assets at year end 31 August 2024 of £241,489 (at year end 31 August 2023 £247,445) comprise restricted funds of £41,663 and unrestricted reserves of £199,826 (at year end 31 August 2023 £189,363). The unrestricted reserves represent 4.3 months (year end 31 August 2023 was 4.5 months) of the total expenditure budget for year 2024-25 (from 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025).

Designated Redundancy Fund:
£28,000 has been designated to a redundancy fund giving free undesignated reserves of £171,826. The free reserves element of the current assets represents approximately 3.7 months' running costs of the expenditure budget for year 2024-25.

Reserves Policy:
The policy is to maintain unrestricted funds of between 3 to 6 months of average operating costs as an Operating Reserve Fund to ensure the sustainability of the Charitable Company and future delivery and development of services.

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 17 March 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Victoria Rae
Chair of Trustees

Independent Examiner's Report To The Trustees Of Islington Centre For Refugees And Migrants

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise a Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and related notes.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's Trustees of the Charitable Company (and also its Directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Charitable Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your Charitable Company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Charitable Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of both the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and the Association of Charity Independent Examiners (ACIE), both of which are listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charitable Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice ("SORP") for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mr J P Foxwell FCCA FCIE
independent-examiner.net

PO Box 9846
Poole
BH15 9JZ

Date: 17 March 2025

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2024 (including an Income and Expenditure Account)

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 £	2023 £
INCOME					
Donations and legacies		121,688	22,000	143,688	176,321
Activities for generating funds		-	-	-	1,496
Charitable activities	2	89,817	265,706	355,523	297,305
Other income		60	-	60	35
Total income		211,565	287,706	499,271	475,157
EXPENDITURE					
Costs of generating income		396	-	396	984
Charitable activities	3	200,705	304,126	504,831	446,669
Total expenditure		201,101	304,126	505,227	447,652
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds		**10,464**	**(16,420)**	**(5,956)**	**27,504**
Funds brought forward		189,363	58,082	247,445	219,941
Funds carried forward		199,827	41,662	241,489	247,445

The Statement of Financial Activities reflects the results of continuing activities for the year.

There are no recognised gains and losses other than those shown in the Statement of Financial Activities.

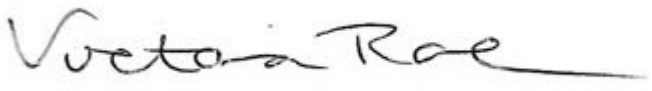
Balance Sheet at 31 August 2024

	Notes	£	2024 £	£	2023 £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors and accrued income	5	10,417		24,524	
Cash at bank and in hand		260,905		247,683	
		271,322		**272,207**	
CREDITORS – amounts falling due in less than one year	6	(29,833)		(24,762)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			**£241,489**		**£247,445**
FUNDS					
General fund			171,827		161,363
Designated fund	7		28,000		28,000
Total unrestricted funds			199,827		189,363
Restricted funds	10		41,663		58,082
Total funds			**£241,489**		**£247,445**

The Directors are satisfied that the Charitable Company is entitled to exemption from the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act") relating to the audit of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 by virtue of section 477, and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the 2006 Act.

The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the 2006 Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the Trustees on 17 March 2025. and signed on their behalf by:



Victoria Rae
Chair of Trustees

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice ("SORP") applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015) – Charities SORP (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

There have been no changes in accounting policies or application of such policies during the year.

(a) Company status

The Charitable Company is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company are those persons included in the register of members and include the Trustees named on page 24.

In the event of the Charitable Company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member.

(b) Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charitable Company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

(c) Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charitable Company is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

(d) Pensions

During the financial year ending 31 August 2024 pension provision continued with the employer's contribution being 8% for all eligible staff. The Centre adheres to the Auto Enrolment Scheme and is compliant with the requirements as set out by the Pensions Regulator.
The Centre's pensions' service provider is The Pensions Trust.

(e) Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Governance costs, now included within charitable activity costs, are those incurred in connection with administration of the Charitable Company and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

2. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
CAF Keystone Fund	35,000	-	35,000	10,000
City Bridge Foundation	-	49,443	49,443	27,251
Cloudesley Principal Grant Extension	-	35,000	35,000	-
Cripplegate Foundation	-	-	-	8,000
Garfield Weston	-	25,000	25,000	25,000
Islington Council VCS	-	20,417	20,417	20,000
Lloyds Bank Foundation	23,000	-	23,000	29,250
Lloyds Bank Foundation (Uplift)	2,500	-	2,500	-
Lloyds Bank Foundation (Specialist Programme)	4,167	-	4,167	-
Islington Council Local Initiative Fund (LIF)	-	-	-	1,000
London Catalyst	-	-	-	3,000
London Churches Refugee Fund	-	1,650	1,650	1,850
The Mercers' Company	25,000	-	25,000	-
National Lottery - Reaching Communities	-	30,000	30,000	78,000
National Lottery - Community Organisation Cost of Living Fund	-	59,215	59,215	14,524
Cloudesley (Catalyst)	-	4,993	4,993	5,000
Cloudesley (Welfare)	-	15,000	15,000	15,000
Cloudesley Principal Grant Fund)	-	-	-	30,000
Cloudesley (Presentation)	150	-	150	-
Cloudesley (Training)	-	-	-	4,760
Cloudesley (Welfare Uplift)	-	5,000	5,000	5,000
Cloudesley (Principal Grant FundUplift)	-	-	-	5,000
Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation(Extension)	-	19,989	19,989	-
Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation	-	-	-	4,670
Together for London – Community Foundation	-	-	-	10,000
	£89,817	£265,706	£355,523	£297,305

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2024

3. COSTS OF ACTIVITIES IN FURTHERANCE OF THE CHARITABLE OBJECTS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Client Activities	10,708	-	10,708	5,058
Client Hardship Payments	28,220	49,842	78,062	73,445
Client Travel and Subsistence	1,494	2,100	3,594	2,374
Governance Costs	2,866	650	3,516	2,183
Running Costs	19,545	13,846	33,391	32,408
Salaries and Associated On-Costs	121,970	220,302	342,272	294,693
Sessional Workers	12,322	10,700	23,022	21,003
Staff and Volunteer Development	1,971	6,128	8,099	15,064
Volunteer Costs	1,609	558	2,168	442
	£200,705	£304,126	£504,831	£446,669

4. STAFF COSTS

	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£
Salaries and wages	293,815	255,531
Social security costs	23,803	17,605
Pension costs	23,552	20,460
	£341,170	£293,595

Staff costs exclude payroll service provider costs.
One employee received employee benefits within £60,000 - £70,000 band during the year (2023: nil).
The average monthly headcount was 9 staff (2023: 7 staff).

5. DEBTORS AND ACCRUED INCOME

	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£
Accrued grant income	£10,417	£24,524

6. CREDITORS AND DEFERRED INCOME

	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£
Creditors	2,000	1,762
Deferred grant income	27,833	23,000
	£29,833	£24,762

7. DESIGNATED FUND

The Trustees have designated £28,000 as a contingency against unexpected staff costs. (2023: £28,000).

8. TRUSTEES

No Trustee received any remuneration during the year. No expenses were reimbursed to any Trustee during the year ending 31 August 2024 (2023: nil).

9. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Current assets	229,659	41,663	271,322	272,207
Creditors	(29,833)	-	(29,833)	(24,762)
	£199,826	£41,663	£241,489	£247,445

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2024

10. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance b/f	Income	Expenditure	Balance c/f
	£	£	£	£
Islington Council VCS	387	20,417	(20,804)	-
London Churches Refugee fund	-	1,650	(1,650)	-
Cloudesley (Catalyst)	1,667	4,993	(5,000)	1,660
Cloudesley (Welfare)	-	15,000	(15,000)	-
Cloudesley (Welfare Uplift)	-	5,000	(5,000)	-
Cloudesley (Principal Grant Fund Extension)	-	35,000	(32,083)	2,917
Cloudesley (Principal Grant Fund)	2,500	-	(2,500)	-
City Bridge Foundation	3,028	49,443	(41,885)	10,586
Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation	-	19,989	(19,989)	-
Reel Fund		20,000	(20,000)	-
National Lottery - Reaching Communities	15,000	30,000	(45,000)	-
National Lottery - Community Organisation Cost of Living Fund	-	59,215	(59,215)	-
Action Funder – Greene King	-	2,000	(2,000)	-
The French Huguenot Church of London Charitable Trust	6,000	-	(6,000)	-
Swan Mountain Trust	4,500	-	(3,000)	1,500
Garfield Weston	25,000	25,000	(25,000)	25,000
	£58,082	£287,706	£(304,126)	£41,663

Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants

Address: 16-18 Cross Street London N1 2BG

General enquiries email address: info.islingtoncentre@gmail.com

Website: islingtoncentre.co.uk

Facebook: @IslingtonCentre
Instagram: @IslingtonCentre

Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants is a registered charity in England and Wales
Charity number: 1135205
Company number: 07076199

ISLINGTON CENTRE FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1135205

Accounts

Annual Report

2022 - 2023

Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants

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20 Trustee Annual Report

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Message from our Patron

In a year which has seen increasing hostility towards refugees and asylum seekers, the Centre has offered a community where people can make friends, find comfort and laughter, feel they belong, and where they are never judged.

Within this community, whether it is online or in person, astonishing individuals are freed from the label “refugee” or "asylum seeker” and are able to plan ahead and dream again.

I am immensely proud to be a part of this efficient and effective organisation where people are offered many kinds of support – practical, legal, linguistic and psychological; as well as given a warm welcome, good food and – perhaps most importantly – a sense of home.

I would urge anyone in a position to do so, to give the Islington Centre all the financial and logistical support it needs and profoundly deserves.

JULIET STEVENSON CBE, ACTOR

The Centre’s register grew by 43% in 2022-23

A Word from our CEO

At the Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants (the Centre), our purpose is to offer the activities and services that help people seeking sanctuary in the UK on the difficult journey to becoming settled in our society and, in time, being able to contribute.

2022-23 has been another full year and I hope you can get a sense of our progress and achievements through reading this report.

One of our highlights from the year has been our ongoing work with destitute asylum seekers. Our Support Packages for people in destitution began during the pandemic and remain a lifeline – we are so proud to be in a position to continue to provide this essential support.

Alongside the Support Packages, we offer so much more and are constantly refining our work, listening to clients and responding to what they tell us they need.

I really hope you can sense the compassion and drive of the Centre and all its people through this report and whoever you are, I hope we have the chance to meet and share these experiences together.

ANDY RUIZ PALMA
CEO

Message from our Board Chair

During this year we have responded to increasing needs and greater complexities of refugees and asylum seekers seeking support.

This year, we have had significantly more interactions with clients and prospective clients compared to the previous year. This reflects the growing challenges our clients are facing in the world out there. Yet through the Centre, whether online or in person, they find a welcoming community and a hand of friendship; a place where they matter.

That we are able to do this is thanks to the generosity of our funders for their support and the dedication and skills of our staff team and volunteers who demonstrate care and compassion in all they do. We have also welcomed in the year a number of new Trustees who bring strong experience and energy to our Board. Together I believe we are confident in our impact and proud to provide the work outlined in this Annual Report that can and does make a deep difference to our community.

VICTORIA RAE, BOARD CHAIR

Our Board recruited new members with lived experience of migration and seeking asylum

Vision, Mission and Values

VISION

We envisage a world where refugees, asylum seekers and migrants are integrated fully into their new communities with equal access to opportunities to progress their lives and fulfil their potential.

MISSION

To offer people the emotional support, practical tools and sense of community they need to build a happy life in the UK.

VALUES

- Offering a warm welcome to all who come to us
- Working together to put the client first
- Care and compassion
- Respect and dignity for all
- Improving our working model from our own learning
- Showing grit and determination to be here for our clients

Strategy

Our strategic priorities for 2022-2025 are:

- Develop a strong organisation to underpin the work and enable the Centre to be the best it can be.
- Provide activities and services for our clients to help relieve the issues they face and enable them to reach their potential.
- Build our profile and our partnerships to share the work we do and to increase support to carry it out.

What we have achieved so far:

Recruited 6 new trustees

Achieved OISC (Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner) accreditation

Increased our fundraising capacity

Further diversified our income streams

Made new partnerships to further the Centre's work

Reviewed organisational structure and created a leadership team

Developed our Support Service through increased capacity

Developed our HR policies to strengthen the organisation

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Programmes

English Classes

Our highly experienced English teachers offer 20 free online English classes every week, including English at two levels, conversation classes and English community/citizenship classes.

Our hybrid model features classes both in-person and online, which continues to be popular, allowing increased access for many.

Support Packages

Since the pandemic, the Support Packages scheme has provided biweekly grants to asylum seekers struggling to get food and basics:

- Maximum £39 per fortnight to those in destitution.
- Maximum £24 per fortnight to those not in destitution for digital and travel reimbursements.

Support Service

The Support Service programme offers expert advice and referrals to help people overcome practical issues and access free legal representation, healthcare and counselling, education, accommodation, college and university and more.

Centre Days

On Wednesdays the Centre operates as a community hub with activities, community, and support, including dance, choir, art, English, Support Service, hot lunch, and more. Additionally, on Tuesdays in-person activities are available at Christ Church Community Centre with tea, snacks, Support Service, and English with our partner Speak Street.

Physical Wellbeing Activities

Our weekly exercise sessions are therapeutic spaces that focus on health and wellbeing:

- Dance led by choreographers from Protein Dance Company
- Yoga by instructor
- Exercise / Gym online
- Sports Discussion community group
- Sexual Health classes with NHS Clash
- Feminine hygiene product distribution with Bloody Good Period

Art Classes

Arts activities offer a safe space to process past experiences and express emotions:

- Choir led by the Director of the World Harmony Orchestra
- Art and Writing led by our two artists in residence
- Tea Cosy over 60s craft and social club
- Craft Corner sewing club led by Creatives Against Poverty
- Field trips to an art exhibition, performance, or community event in London.

Activities and Attendances

Between September 2022 and August 2023 we offered 186 people compassionate, long-term support to begin to build a life in the UK.

We are so proud that, thanks to our funders who put their trust in us, we were able to grow our classes and services and offer:

1,359

Online Classes

- 11,230 attendances
- 1,079 English classes
- 280 arts / wellbeing classes

1,474

Support Service Appointments

- 186 people

83

In Person Centre Days

- 1,867 attendances
- 1,700 lunches served

2,448

Support Packages

- 92 people

91%

Of new starters **feel their life is going in a better direction** after joining us

83%

Of new starters **feel more empowered** after their first six months with us

Positive Outcomes

Improved Mental + Physical Wellbeing

Reduced Sense of Isolation

Improved English

Access to Food and Essentials

Access to Housing

Confidence to Negotiate Asylum System

56

People accessed **healthcare** e.g. GPs, HC2 certificates and dentists

68

People supported to access emergency and long term **accommodation**

92

People helped to **negotiate the asylum system** with 10 gaining refugee status

76

People came to us for support to access **college and university**

92

People experiencing destitution were kept from **hunger**

Measuring Our Impact

Over the last 26 years, we have come to know our community well. We closely monitor the services we offer to ensure that they are genuinely the services our community needs.

Across 2022-23 we used a variety of methods to gather both quantitative and qualitative impact data, such as:

- Surveys of long term clients to gauge a sense of wellbeing, integration, confidence, etc., at the start and end of the year.
- A survey of new starters after 6 months on the impact our services have had.
- Recording attendance at each session, to understand what works and where we can improve.
- Recording the work of our Support Service e.g. the number of people we worked with to achieve refugee status, to access accommodation, healthcare, legal support etc.

This year we introduced an information management system, which enabled us to gather and share information more efficiently. We are very grateful to Cloudesley, an Islington-based funder, for its ongoing support and for providing a special one-off grant to enable this.

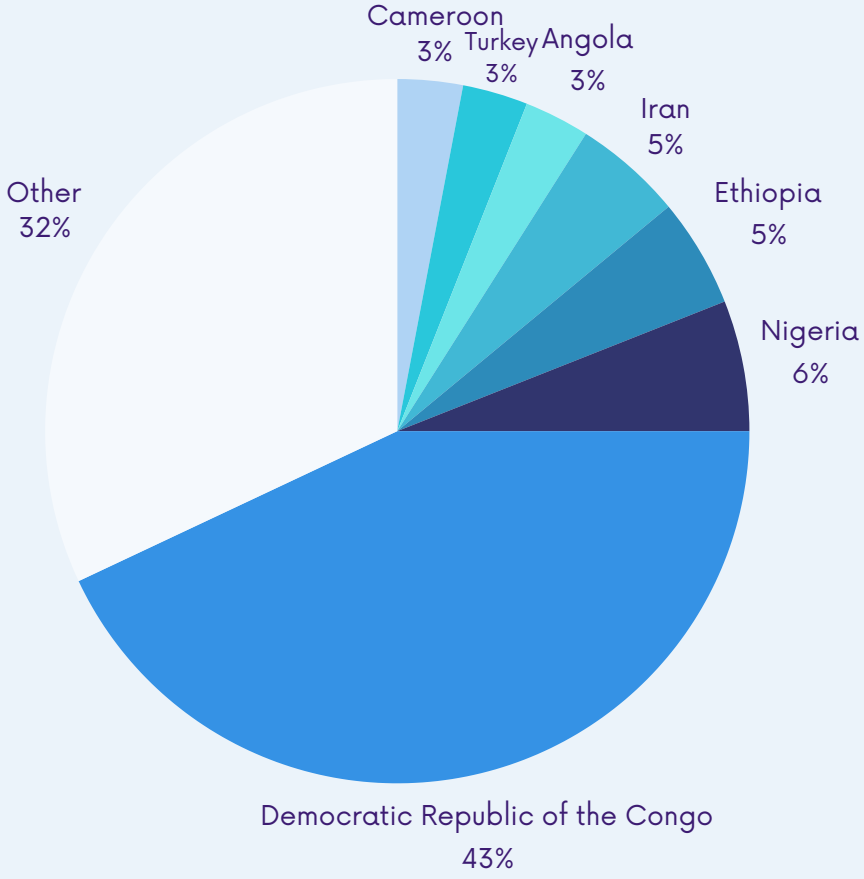
In the coming year, with guidance from a consultancy firm funded through a grant with the Lloyds Bank Foundation, we seek to develop a theory of change, articulate our client journey and are introducing new client surveys and evaluation meetings.

We are always striving to improve.

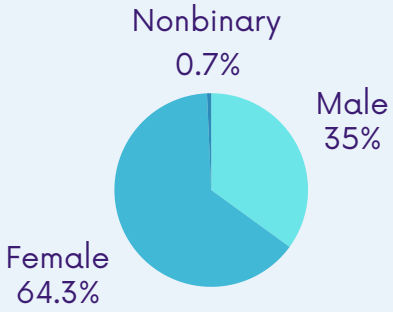
Our Community

Our approach is not institutional, but compassionate and human. We have been in London for 26 years and have built many long-standing relationships with our 186 students and clients who originate from 43 countries.

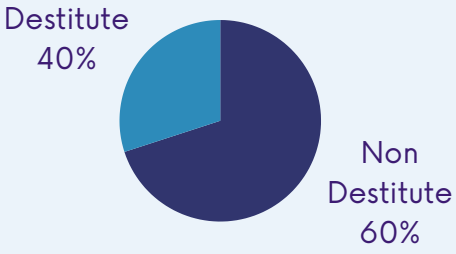
The top 7 countries of origin were:



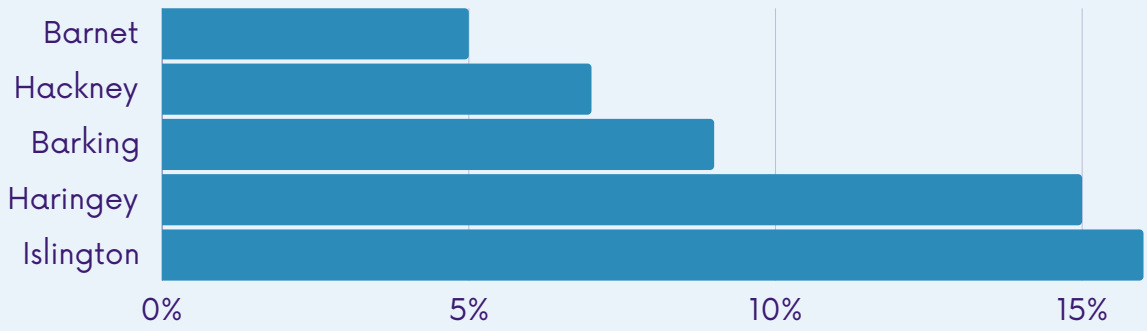
The gender split was:



Those considered destitute were:



People came to us from all over London. The top 5 boroughs were:



Eric's Story

I came from the Democratic Republic of Congo to the UK in 2015.

It was very hard for me because I didn't know where to start as a newcomer in the country. I heard a friend talking about the Islington Centre for Refugees and decided to register.

I started learning English at the Centre and I participated in many activities such as yoga, gym, English classes, Speak Street activities. I have visited London's most important and precious places, such as Buckingham Palace. It was good for me at the Centre and I made friendships and **the Centre helped me to access painting and decorating at college. This was my ambition.**

During the Covid 19 Lockdown, my case was rejected. It was very hard for me. I had to stop my studies and didn't have any place to stay or support.

Islington Centre was there for me. It helped me to find accommodation and find a lawyer. While I was receiving no money from NASS or the government, the Centre supported me with Support Packages. These were essential as I had nothing at this time.

After Covid things became very stressful with my court hearing. Some members of the Centre's community, Andy and Jane, came to be witnesses for my final appeal hearing. I am happy to say that my court appeal was successful and recently I had a positive decision from the Court. **I won my case. I had a Positive Decision.**

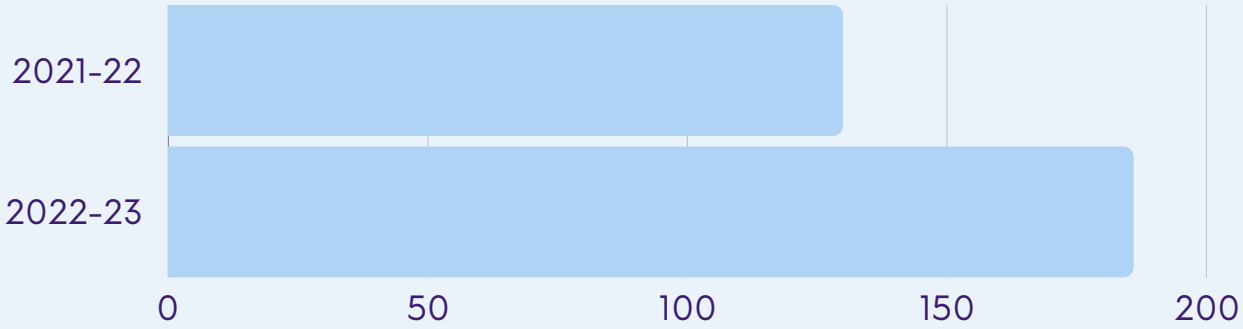
I am now ready to start my life again. I am studying painting and decorating, I am on level 2 and hopefully next year I will find a job. I will keep coming back to the Centre when I need help and I hope I can give back to the Centre.

The Islington Centre is my home. Again and again, thank you.

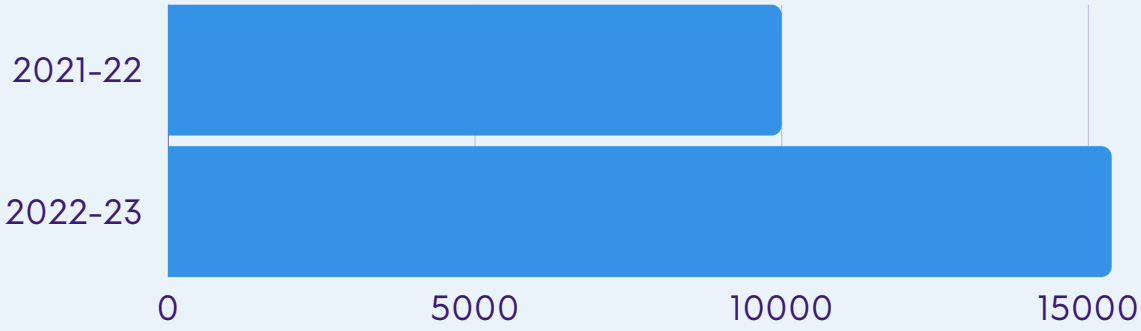
Meeting the Increasing Need

The Centre has been working to be responsive to the growing need as more people are seeking our services. The Centre increased the number of people registered with us last year and offered more activities, which led to a significant increase in total attendances to our activities and services.

The Centre saw a **43% increase** in total people served last year.



The Centre saw a **53% increase** in total attendances last year.



Our Partners

Our work has only been made possible by the tireless work and generosity of our volunteers and community partners, including:

- Amnesty International
- Bloody Good Period
- Christ Church
- Church on the Corner
- Creatives Against Poverty
- Cross Street Baptist Church
- Haberdashers' Girls' School
- Islington Choir and Bellow Fellows
- Islington Libraries
- Lawyers Against Poverty
- Macquarie Group
- NHS CLASH
- Protein Dance
- Songworks Choir
- Speak Street
- St Mary's Islington Church
- Temple of Seitan
- Westminster Abbey

Volunteers and Partnerships

Over the last 26 years we have built relationships with organisations locally and within the sector. Our partners provide the people who come to us with advice and support around housing, counselling and law and also with activities like dance, gym and much more. Here we focus on two of the organisations in our network.

BLOODY GOOD PERIOD

The Centre is a long time partner with Bloody Good Period, working together to ensured accessibility of period products to people in our community. **Last year we disbursed 350 orders including 20,000 individual items.**

LAWYERS AGAINST POVERTY

Lawyers Against Poverty leads a weekly online session providing information to our community on individual rights in the areas of employment, criminal and family law with **43 sessions across the year.**

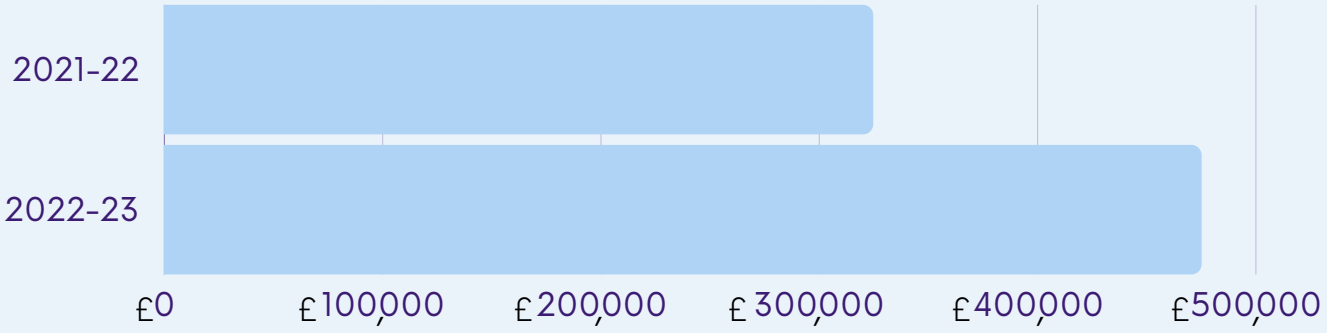
VOLUNTEERS

Our work was supported and made possible this past year by 20 online volunteers as well as 92 in-person volunteers, totalling **112 volunteers across the year.**

Funding Overview

Where our funding came from in 2022-23.

Our income increased from £327,733 in 2021-22 to £475,157 in 2022-23, an increase of just over 45%.



This increase was brought about by the successful recruitment of a second part-time fundraiser and our work to continue to build our fundraising portfolio. We saw impressive results in our grant fundraising, including securing a multi-year grant with the Garfield Weston Foundation and renewing multi-year grants with Islington Council and with local funder, Cloudesley. Our increased social media output and growing presence in the community attracted new funders and our supporter base grew.

Our income of £475,157 came from the following sources:

Trusts and Foundations - 91% came from more than 30 Trusts and Foundations.

Individuals - 5% came from the generous donations of individuals.

Corporate Partners - 3% came from corporate partners as match funding.

Community Partnerships - 1% came from our community partners.

Our Funders

We rely entirely on the kindness and generosity of our supporters. Listed here are the trusts, foundations and companies which made our work possible in 2022-23. There are also many individuals who make our work possible. A huge thank you to each and every supporter!

Albert Hunt Trust
Apple
C. Hoare and Co. Community Fund
CAF Keystone Fund
Calypso Browning Trust
City Bridge Foundation
Cloudesley
Cripplegate Foundation
Diana Parker Charitable Settlement
Forrester Family Trust
Google
Garfield Weston Foundation
Green Investment Group
Hillcote Trust
Irving Memorial Trust
Islington Council (via the VCS fund)
Leathersellers' Company
Lloyds Bank Foundation
London Catalyst
London Churches Refugee Fund
Macquarie Group
Michael and Harriet Maunsell Charitable Trust
Microsoft
Mishcon Family Charitable Trust
National Lottery (Reaching Communities)
Not Actual Size
Peter Stebbings Memorial Charity
Porta Pia 2012 Foundation
Postcode Society Trust
Reel Fund (via the London Community Foundation)
Souter Charitable Trust
St Mary's Islington
Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation
Swan Mountain Trust
The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust
Together for London - London Community Foundation
Tyl/Pennies
Waylan Trust

Thanks to the Graduate Volunteers and Macquarie Group for their ongoing support

Reference and Administrative Details

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER:	07076199
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER:	1135205
TRUSTEES:	Victoria Rae (Chair) Teresa Dodgson (Secretary) Imran Malik (Treasurer) Charlotte Lilley Francis Bowondo Gabrielle Samuels Ghadeer Al-Seragi Gladys Jusu Sheriff Kathy Margerison Victor de Waal
REGISTERED OFFICE:	Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants Cross Street Baptist Church 16-18 Cross Street London N1 2BG islingtoncentre@gmail.com www.islingtoncentre.co.uk
PRIMARY BANKERS:	The Co-operative Bank PO Box 250, Delf House Southway Skelmersdale WN8 6WT
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:	Mr J P Foxwell FCCA FCIE independent-examiner.net 39 Enfield Road Poole BH15 3LJ

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees of the charity for the purposes of UK Charity Law are also the directors of the company for the purposes of UK Company Law. The Trustees are responsible for overseeing the management of the Centre and delegate day-to-day management to the CEO and the leadership team. The Trustees set the strategic direction of the Centre, agree the financial plan, and maintain with the CEO a comprehensive risk register.

The Trustees of Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants ("the Charitable Company" or "Centre") for the purposes of the Companies Act, submit their report and the financial statements for the year ending 31 August 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the governing document, the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

STATUS: The Charitable Company, Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants is:

(a) a company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 13 November 2009 with registered company number 07076199

(b) a charity, registered on 25 March 2010 with charity number 1135205

The Articles of Association is the governing document of the Charitable Company. The limit of the members' guarantee is £10. No provision for taxation has been made on the basis that the Charitable Company is exempt from Corporation Tax on its charitable activities.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: The principal activity of the Charitable Company in the year under review was Education - Adult and other education.

CHARITABLE PURPOSES: The Objects as described in the Articles of Association read as follows:

1. To advance education and relieve financial hardship amongst those seeking asylum and those granted refugee status by the provision of advice, training and support.
2. To advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum.
3. To advance the Christian religion by living out our love for neighbour and bringing the stranger of any or no faith into our community.

All work of the Charitable Company has been dedicated to the furtherance of these purposes.

BANK ACCOUNTS

The Centre's main bank account is with the Cooperative Bank. The Centre has a savings deposit account with Triodos Bank UK and no further bank accounts were opened throughout the year. The Centre has an account with PayPal in order to receive online donations. Donations are also received via Charities Aid Foundation.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Trustees have given due consideration to the Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit - SORP reference 1.18.

Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants is committed to its charitable purposes in all its activities. The principal activities, in line with the Charity Commission's public benefit description are:

- The advancement of education comprising the delivery of a range of services including English to refugees, asylum seekers and migrants ("Clients"), art and creative writing, dance, choir and exercise based activities in order to build confidence within and up-skill all those who access our services.

- A Support Service offering practical help, referrals and guidance for clients needing help.

- Relief of Hardship so destitute clients have access to a range of services that help to relieve both short-term and long-term hardship. This includes our Support Package programme for destitute asylum seekers. This helps destitute clients with essential living costs that they would otherwise not be able to afford.

On completing activities at the Centre many of our Clients progress onto further education courses in their chosen subject area, volunteer roles in the community or to paid employment positions. Asylum seekers who are prohibited from working are welcomed to continue attending the Centre while they await the outcome of their asylum application.

The Centre has a comprehensive website and internet profile in order to present its work and the wider impact of its activities and services on refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. It shines a light on the struggles of its service users in order to educate the public on the issues faced by its Clients.

Volunteering is a critical element in the development of a strong community and it is this which mutually benefits the wider community and the Centre. At any given time there are around 40 volunteers contributing to the work of the Centre undertaking activities as varied as preparing food parcels, supporting Clients with their everyday or more complex problems, facilitating craft groups and furthering their experiences of British life through our enrichment programme.

We welcome people who have been displaced from their countries of origin, wherever they have come from, whatever has happened in their lives. The refugees and migrants who come to us have been through extremely difficult times. Leaving your country because of war, persecution or incarceration takes real grit, determination and courage. But for many, arriving in London is just the beginning of a long journey towards settled status and a decent life.

At the Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants, we welcome people, talk with them, listen to what they need and respond to that. Whether someone tells us they need English lessons, advice on housing, accessing healthcare, applying to college or any of the many challenges of being a migrant in London – we are here for our Clients.

THE CHANGE WE WANT TO SEE

We work to ensure positive, sustainable change for asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants.

Our Centre is a place where:
- Refugees, asylum seekers and migrants feel safe and welcome
- Refugees, asylum seekers and migrants can meet with each other and with the local community to build friendships and share stories
- Refugees, asylum seekers and migrants are supported to improve their emotional and physical wellbeing

We support our Clients to:
- Be independent and empowered
- Be confident in communicating with people around them, and in a position to seize opportunities to build new skills and experiences
- Have access to income, housing, healthcare, education and a stable immigration status

We do this through providing the following services and activities:
- English language lessons
- Skills development activities, workshops and partnerships
- Crisis support to meet immediate need, including emergency grants, donations and support to access shelter
- Advice and advocacy on income, housing, education, healthcare, and supporting people to secure their immigration status
- Health checks, exercise and donations of food, toiletries and sanitary protection
- Providing a safe, welcoming space, including therapeutic arts activities
- Social and recreational activities
- Share our work with the community to encourage support and to better understand our Clients

TRUSTEES

The Trustees (who also act as directors for Companies Act purposes) who served during the year 2022-23 are as follows:

	Appointment Start	Appointment End
Victoria Rae (Chair)	17/01/22	Continuing
Teresa Dodgson (Secretary)	21/06/12	Continuing
Imran Malik (Treasurer)	15/05/23	Continuing
Rev Victor de Waal	01/09/10	Continuing
Beverley van der Sluis	21/06/12	20/11/22
Gladys Jusu-Sheriff	21/06/12	Continuing
James Fletcher	04/10/12	20/11/22
Richard Nicholson	26/11/18	21/07/23
Kathy Margerison	14/03/22	Continuing
Francis Bowondo	13/03/23	Continuing
Gabrielle Samuels	15/05/23	Continuing
Charlotte Lilley	15/05/23	Continuing
Ghadeer Al-Seragi	10/07/23	Continuing
Alice Billin	10/07/23	26/01/24

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of the Charitable Company's affairs and of the surplus or deficit for the year.

In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for:

- keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity; and
- safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- agreement on strategy and an annual budget approved by the Trustees;
- regular consideration by the Trustees of financial results, variance from budgets, and non-financial performance indicators;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks; and
- adequate unrestricted funds remain in place to meet the future projected financial commitments in a 12 month period from the year end.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Trustees have developed and work closely with an active risk register in order to manage any issues and to minimise disruption in the event of a realised risk.

The Centre has insurance policies as follows:

- Employers' Liability insurance with Markel International Insurance Company Limited
- Public Liability insurance with Markel International Insurance Company Limited
- Directors and Officers Management Liability Insurance with Marsh Omega

The Centre has in place a Safeguarding Policy for vulnerable adults and children that it works with.

The Centre has in place a Health and Safety policy which includes a Risk Assessment.

The Trustees have prepared and agreed to comply with a Code of Conduct.

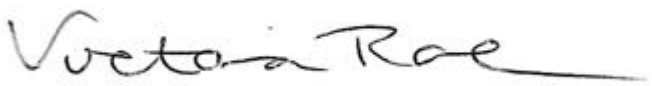
RESERVES

Reserves Statement:
The net current assets at year end 31 August 2023 of £247,445 (at year end 31 August 2022 £219,941 (See Note 11)) comprise restricted funds of £58,082 and unrestricted reserves of £189,363. The unrestricted reserves represent 4.5 months (year end 31 August 2022 was 4.1 months) of the total projected costs for the year from 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 ("year 2023-24").

Designated Redundancy Fund:
£28,000 has been designated to a redundancy fund giving free undesignated reserves of £161,363. The free reserves element of the current assets represents approximately 3.9 months' running costs of the expenditure budget for year 2023-24.

Reserves Policy:
The policy is to maintain unrestricted funds of between 3 to 6 months of average operating costs as an Operating Reserve Fund to ensure the sustainability of the Charitable Company and future delivery and development of services.

This report was approved by the Board on 11 March 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Victoria Rae
Chair of Trustees

Independent Examiner's Report To The Trustees Of Islington Centre For Refugees And Migrants

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise a Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and related notes.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's Trustees of the Charitable Company (and also its Directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Charitable Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your Charitable Company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Charitable Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of both the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and the Association of Charity Independent Examiners (ACIE), both of which are listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charitable Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice ("SORP") for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mr J P Foxwell FCCA FCIE
independent-examiner.net

39 Enfield Road
Poole
BH15 3LJ

Date: 11 March 2024

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2023 (including an Income and Expenditure Account)

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023	2022 (restated)
		£	£	£	£
INCOME					
Donations and legacies		155,219	21,102	176,321	95,859
Activities for generating funds		1,496	-	1,496	-
Charitable activities	2	39,250	258,055	297,305	231,692
Other income		35	-	35	181
Total income		**196,000**	**279,157**	**475,157**	**327,733**
EXPENDITURE					
Costs of generating income		984	-	984	-
Charitable activities	3	151,693	294,976	446,669	385,442
Total expenditure		**152,676**	**294,976**	**447,652**	**385,442**
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds		**43,323**	**(15,819)**	**27,504**	**(57,709)**
Funds brought forward		146,040	73,901	219,941	277,649
Funds carried forward		£189,363	£58,082	£247,445	£219,941

The Statement of Financial Activities reflects the results of continuing activities for the year.

There are no recognised gains and losses other than those shown in the Statement of Financial Activities.

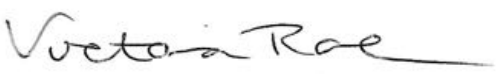
Balance Sheet at 31 August 2023

	Notes	£	2023 £	£	2022 (restated) £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors and accrued income	5	24,524		8,236	
Cash at bank and in hand		247,683		218,047	
		272,207		226,283	
CREDITORS – amounts falling due in less than one year	6	(24,762)		(6,342)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			£247,445		£219,941
FUNDS					
General fund			161,263		124,040
Designated fund	7		28,000		28,000
Total unrestricted funds			£189,363		152,040
Restricted funds	10		£58,082		67,901
Total funds			£247,445		£219,941

The Directors are satisfied that the Charitable Company is entitled to exemption from the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act") relating to the audit of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 by virtue of section 477, and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the 2006 Act.

The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the 2006 Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the Trustees on 11 March 2024. and signed on their behalf by:



Victoria Rae

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice ("SORP") applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015) – Charities SORP (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

There have been no change in accounting policies or application of such policies during the year.

(a) Company status

The Charitable Company is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company are those persons included in the register of members and include the Trustees named on page 20.

In the event of the Charitable Company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member.

(b) Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charitable Company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

(c) Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charitable Company is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

(d) Pensions

During the financial year ending 31 August 2023 pension provision continued with the employer's contribution being 8% for all eligible staff. The Centre adheres to the Auto Enrolment Scheme and is compliant with the requirements as set out by the Pensions Regulator. The Centre's pensions' service provider is The Pensions Trust.

(e) Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Governance costs, now included within charitable activity costs, are those incurred in connection with administration of the Charitable Company and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

2. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022 (restated)
	£	£	£	£
Comic Relief (London Together)	-	-	-	3,778
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	25,000	25,000	30,000
CAF Keystone Fund	10,000	-	10,000	-
City Bridge Foundation	-	27,251	27,251	-
Cripplegate Foundation	-	8,000	8,000	-
Islington Council VCS	-	20,000	20,000	20,000
Leathersellers' Company	-	-	-	10,000
Islington Council Local Initiative Fund (LIF)		1,000	1,000	-
London Catalyst	-	3,000	3,000	-
London Churches Refugee Fund	-	1,850	1,850	2,500
Lloyds Bank Foundation	29,250	-	29,250	-
National Lottery - Reaching Communities England		78,000	78,000	60,000
Community Organisations Cost of Living Fund (National Lottery Community Fund)		14,524	14,524	-
Postcode Society Trust	-	-	-	16,335
Cloudesley (Catalyst)	-	5,000	5,000	5,000
Cloudesley (Welfare)	-	15,000	15,000	17,000
Cloudesley (Support Service)	-	30,000	30,000	30,000
Cloudesley Training Grant	-	4,760	4,760	-
Cloudesley Welfare Grant Uplift	-	5,000	5,000	-
Cloudesley Support Service Uplift	-	5,000	5,000	-
Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation 2	-	-	-	17,090
Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation 3	-	-	-	19,989
Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation	-	4,670	4,670	-
Together for London – London Community Foundation and Hardship	-	7,600	7,600	-
Together for London - London Community Foundation	-	2,400	2,400	-
	£39,250	**£258,055**	**£297,305**	**£231,692**

3. COSTS OF ACTIVITIES IN FURTHERANCE OF THE CHARITABLE OBJECTS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Client Activities	5,058	-	5,058	12,468
Client Hardship Payments	13,245	60,200	73,445	63,120
Client Travel and Subsistence	1,374	1,000	2,374	3,282
Governance Costs	1,533	650	2,183	1,842
Running Costs	23,552	8,856	32,408	26,337
Salaries and Associated On-Costs	94,514	200,178	294,693	257,461
Sessional Workers	3,903	17,099	21,003	19,502
Staff and Volunteer Development	8,270	6,793	15,064	1,170
Volunteer Costs	242	200	442	259
	£151,693	**£294,976**	**£446,669**	**£385,442**

4. STAFF COSTS

	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£
Salaries and wages	255,531	221,666
Social security costs	17,605	17,446
Pension costs	20,460	17,410
	£293,595	**£256,521**

Staff costs excludes payroll service provider costs.

No employees had employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2022 – nil).

The average monthly headcount was 7 staff (2022 – 7 staff).

5. DEBTORS AND ACCRUED INCOME

	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£
Prepayment	-	3,236
Accrued grant income	24,524	5,000
	£24,524	**£8,236**

6. CREDITORS AND DEFERRED INCOME

	Total 2023	Total 2022 (restated)
	£	£
Creditors	1,762	1,582
Deferred grant income	23,000	4,760
	£24,762	**£6,342**

7. DESIGNATED FUND

The Trustees have designated £28,000 as a contingency against unexpected staff costs. (year 21-22 £28,000).

8. TRUSTEES

No Trustee received any remuneration during the year. No expenses were reimbursed to any Trustee during the year ending 31 August 2022 (21-22) or 31 August 2023 (22-23).

9. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022 (restated)
	£	£	£	£
Current assets	214,125	58,082	272,207	226,283
Creditors	(24,762)	-	(24,762)	(6,342)
	£189,363	**£58,082**	**£247,445**	**£219,941**

10. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance b/f (restated)	Income	Expenditure	Balance c/f
	£	£	£	£
Islington Council VCS	417	20,000	(20,030)	387
London Churches Refugee fund	-	1,850	(1,850)	-
Together for London – London Community Foundation and Hardship	-	10,000	(10,000)	-
Cloudesley - Training Grant	-	4,760	(4,760)	-
Islington Council Local Initiative Fund (LIF)	-	1,000	(1,000)	-
Cloudesley – Catalyst fund	1,667	5,000	(5,000)	1,667
Cloudesley – Welfare fund + Uplift	-	20,000	(20,000)	-
Cloudesley – Support Service + Uplift	2,500	35,000	(35,000)	2,500
City Bridge Foundation	-	27,251	(24,223)	3,028
Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation	-	4,670	(4,670)	-
Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation 3	19,989	-	(19,989)	-
London Catalyst Welfare Calls	-	3,000	(3,000)	-
Leathersellers' Company	8,333	-	(8,333)	-
Reel Fund	-	10,000	(10,000)	-
Cripplegate Foundation	-	8,000	(8,000)	-
National Lottery Reaching Communities	15,000	78,000	(78,000)	15,000
National Lottery Cost of Living Uplift Fund	-	14,524	(14,524)	-
Postcode Society Trust	5,435	-	(5,435)	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	17,560	25,000	(17,560)	25,000
St Mary's Islington	-	2,102	(2,102)	-
The French Huguenot Church of London Charitable Trust	-	6,000	-	6,000
Swan Mountain Trust	3,000	3,000	(1,500)	4,500
	£73,901	**279,157**	**£(294,976)**	**£58,082**

11. RESTATEMENT OF PRIOR YEAR FIGURES

£3,000 of grant income should have been included in 2022 accounts rather than being deferred to 2023. The 2022 comparatives have been amended to include the £3,000 to restricted donations in Donations and Legacies and removing £3,000 from the deferred grant income included in creditors. There is no other impact of this change.

A reclassification between Donations & Legacy and Incoming resources from charitable activities has been conducted to better reflect the nature of the donations. There is no change in the overall revenue.

An amount of £59,411 has been reclassified from Donations and Legacies to Charitable Activities in 2022 to better reflect the income on the SOFA.

Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants

Address: 16-18 Cross Street London N1 2BG

General enquiries email address: info.islingtoncentre@gmail.com

Website: islingtoncentre.co.uk

Facebook: @IslingtonCentre
X (Twitter): @IslingtonCentre
Instagram: @IslingtonCentre

Charity registration number: 1135205
Company limited guarantee number: 07076199

ISLINGTON CENTRE FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1135205

Accounts

Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements

31st August 2022

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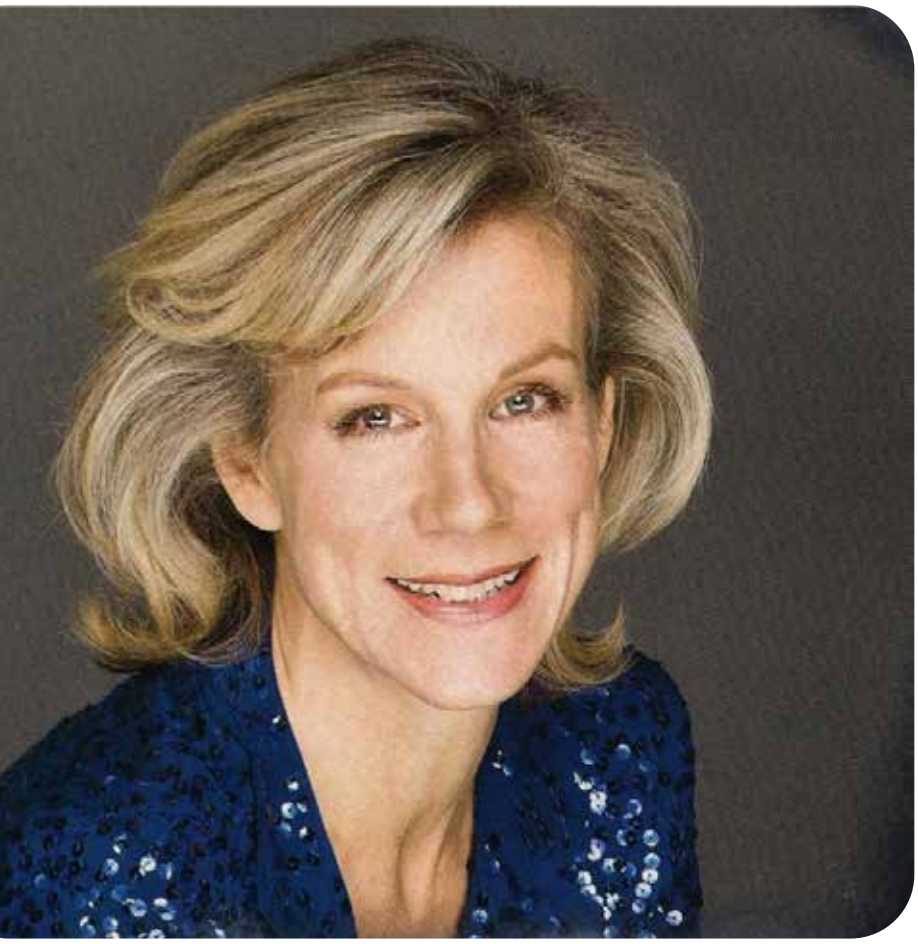
A Word From Our Patron, Actor Juliet Stevenson CBE



In this its 25th anniversary year it has been wonderful to see how the Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants has emerged from the immense challenges of the pandemic stronger, more vibrant and more attuned to the needs of its clients than ever.

2021-22 began with the joyful reopening of the Centre's doors, with Andy and his dedicated team of staff welcoming people in after 18 months of lockdown and remote support. People were tentative at first, but soon the Centre days were thriving with the same sense of warmth and community which have always made it so unique, giving people the strength to rebuild their lives.

At the same time, I have been so impressed by the way that the Centre continued to grow and develop online classes and groups, working intensively to support people with the equipment and skills they needed to feel confident online. Now, refugees and asylum seekers can learn English and be part of the Centre's community, joining from hotels, hostels and refugee hosts from wherever they are in London and beyond.

As I write this in the early months of 2023, refugees and asylum seekers are facing an increasingly difficult and hostile environment. Rapidly changing legislation here in the UK and protests outside hotels housing people claiming asylum are creating an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty. At the same time, the cost of living crisis is making life for people who must get by on £45 a week or, in many cases much less, very difficult.

As ever, I remain very proud to be a Patron of the Centre which has shown such grit and determination to stand by its community throughout this extremely challenging period of history. I would strongly encourage anyone in a position to do so to offer as much financial support to the Centre as possible. With thanks and best wishes,
Juliet Stevenson

Letter From Our Chair Of Trustees Victoria Rae

It is a great privilege this year to have joined the Centre as Chair and I continue to benefit from the wisdom and experience of our outgoing Chair Victor de Waal. In the months since what strikes me without fail is the power of human connection that joins all aspects of our work. Whether in the conversations I have had or the activities I have joined, what I see is a family that welcomes our clients with compassion and respect. For those who join through our online community and those who meet with us in our physical spaces we strive to offer constancy, a trusted centre that is there for them and a place where skills, confidence and self-belief can grow.

We are proud to have published our new strategy which sets our ambition for the coming three years. While we have successfully come through the challenges of Covid lockdown, equally we know that the external environment is increasingly hostile and day-to-day cost of living pressures hit even harder for those who are most vulnerable. As we mark our 25th anniversary, our determination to be there for our clients and the issues they face is resolute.

That we can do this is testament to the generosity and confidence of our supporters who continue to stand with us. With the leadership of Chief Executive, Andy Ruiz Palma, the dedication of his team who go above and beyond and the energy and creativity of our many volunteers, the Board of Trustees and I are immensely proud of the achievements set out in this Annual Report. Together we are committed to going from strength to strength in the years to come.

Letter From Our CEO, Andy Ruiz Palma

I am so proud to be presenting this year's work and hope this report conveys the sense of progress that - together with our clients - we have achieved. Our work is never done but each year we learn new things and develop new ways of working. This year was no different.

Although the effects of the pandemic continued to shape the way we worked, it felt like this year we could move out of the final phase of our Covid strategy and into a fresh new stage. Looking forward, we are keen to get on with implementing our recently created strategy for 2022-25. For full details of this please see page 13.

The demand for services across the refugee sector has rapidly increased and this is reflected in our corner of it. Around 40% of our clients are destitute asylum seekers whose needs throughout the pandemic, and now post-pandemic, have perhaps been the most challenging to meet. In particular, people need support in the areas of their status, isolation, destitution and homelessness.

Every year is an opportunity to learn new lessons and carry all newly acquired knowledge and practices forward to the next. In 2021-22 we learned that our hybrid approach of online and in-person work was the most inclusive. Our online classes and groups allowed us to maintain relationships with long attending clients who would otherwise have struggled due to barriers around distance, cost etc. Meanwhile, those struggling digitally could come in-person to our Centre where they could receive support to access our digital services too.

The activities we offer, both online and in person, have emerged from demand from our clients and include English classes, our Support Service, Support Packages to people in destitution, Art and Writing, Dance Yoga, Gym, Sewing, and so much more.

We learned to trust in our own investment through the previous year. Throughout 2020-21, a tough fundraising 'pandemic infused' environment, we worked hard to exceed our income target and built up our reserves. We knew 2021-22 would be a very difficult year with many external challenges including the country coming back to work and a very competitive fundraising environment. We reinvested some of the reserves we had built up in continuing our Support Package offer and building a stronger team – we identified two new positions including an additional caseworker and a fundraising officer.

With an increasing number of clients and interactions we have sought new ways to manage our day to day work. We started development on a new database management system, Lamplight, to manage our work, services, activities and monitoring and evaluation.

We aim to be a positive force in the life of our clients at what is a very challenging time in their lives. As we change in response to the needs of the clients, we also see progress in the right direction for them and here in this report I hope you will feel a sense of that as you read on.

Our Mission, Vision And Values

As part of our work to create a post-pandemic strategy in 2022, we articulated our Vision and Values for the first time.

We are proud that the Vision and Values we set out are those which have guided our work since the Centre was founded in 1997 – many of the ideas come from conversations we have had with our clients over the years.

Vision
We envisage a world where refugees, asylum seekers and migrants are integrated fully into their new communities with equal access to opportunities to progress their lives and fulfil their potential.

Mission
Our mission is to offer people the emotional support, practical tools and sense of community they need to be happy and have a decent quality of life in the UK.

Values

- Offering a warm welcome to all who come to us
- Working together to put the client first
- Care and compassion
- Respect and dignity for all
- Learning and improving our working model from our own learning
- Showing grit and determination to be here for our clients

"I really feel much better after joining the Islington Centre. In this every single person who work for Centre they are very kind and helpful. They behave with us as our family member. I love this Centre."

Empowering People To Rebuild Their Lives – Combining Services To Offer Holistic, Long Term Support

Overcoming Isolation
2021-2022 saw the reopening of our physical Centre following the pandemic – we were so happy to reopen our doors and welcome people back after almost eighteen months of remote provision. Every Wednesday we offered hot lunches, a safe space to relax, donations of toiletries, activities including Choir and Dance and, crucially, access to our Support Service which supports people to overcome practical problems and move forward in their lives. Out of our client base of 178 people, 120 regularly attended our ***physical Centre in Islington***. Meanwhile, we continued to provide a rich and varied online timetable, including English classes, Art and Writing, online Yoga, online exercise classes, a book group and much more. In September 2022 we opened an additional session on a Tuesday at Christ Church. Our full timetable is available on our website.

Across the year 163 of our clients joined us regularly online in what has become a unique international ***online community***. 83% of new clients surveyed said they feel more part of UK life after six months with us.

One client said:
'The Centre welcomed me and gave me some warmth. I felt really welcome, from staff, from people. It was like my life kind of renewed.'

Overcoming The Language Barrier
We offer ***English language*** *lessons* to improve people's language skills and to give a sense of community and connection. We strongly believe that overcoming language barriers is key to allowing people to integrate in their communities. It is extremely difficult to build supportive social networks without being able to communicate. Across the year our highly experienced English teachers taught 136 people, with classes in reading and writing at different levels, classes in citizenship, English with exercise, conversation classes and much more.

Overcoming Poverty And Inequality
Many of our clients are homeless, sofa surfing, staying with hosts or street sleeping and all live in a degree of poverty. *Our Support Service* provides support, signposting and referrals to empower people to overcome and resolve issues with asylum, housing, homelessness, destitution and health. The Support Service expanded during 2022 in response to the great level of need post-pandemic. Our Support Service Coordinator became full-time and we recruited a part-time caseworker. In addition, we began the process of securing accreditation with the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) and achieved level one (asylum) in the autumn of 2022 which allowed us to support people with a limited number of asylum issues and give some asylum advice. Now, in 2023 we are working towards level two which will mean our Support Service can undertake more complex casework including making asylum claims and giving asylum advice. Our team secured significant successes for many clients including: 62 people had support with housing and homelessness with 11 securing long term accommodation, 130 people had help to negotiate the asylum system with five securing refugee status.

'I've had a lot of problems which have happened to me but since I've started coming to the Centre it's strengthened me. Thank you for giving me this space.'

'The biweekly support package (£39) I received from Islington Centre has been a life saver that has saved me from depression and mental breakdown.'

To read Joseph's full letter, please visit the blog page of our website.

Escaping Destitution
We are incredibly proud that the *Support Packages* we started to send to people during the pandemic have developed into a regular system of small grants. We are very grateful to Cloudesley, Cripplegate, our corporate partners and the individuals who give so generously to make this possible. Every fortnight, we send destitute asylum seekers £15 for food. In addition, all asylum seekers who join our classes – either online or in person – are able to claim reimbursements for the cost of digital credit and travel. In 2022 we supported 79 asylum seekers with 2054 Support Packages allowing access to food, essentials, travel and digital credit, all of which are essential to physical and mental health.

Overcoming Digital Exclusion
During the pandemic we undertook a huge *digital inclusion programme*, supporting people who had never been online to feel confident with Zoom and email so that they could stay in touch with us and with other organisations. Since then, digital inclusion has continued to be a key part of our work. We provide phones and laptops to those without equipment, offer assistance by phone or online to help people use equipment and assistance with digital issues at our in person Centre days. In 2022, 147 people were supported to feel confident online.

Escaping Health Inequalities

Many people at the Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants have injuries, illnesses and trauma caused by their experiences in their country of origin or in the UK. A significant number experience chronic illnesses. We offer ***individualised support*** where each client is allocated a 'group leader' who is there as a point of communication. Group leaders check in with people who are unusually absent, displaying signs of physical or mental distress or seem particularly quiet or reserved during a session. We support people to improve their physical wellbeing by offering support to access the NHS, offering gym and yoga classes online and by welcoming visiting organisations to speak to people about health issues, for example we work closely with NHS CLASH which provides information on sexual health. We also offer ***access to free sanitary products*** and other related items through our partnership with Bloody Good Period and through donations at the Centre on a Wednesday. In 2022 we supported 79 people to access healthcare for example by helping people to register with a GP, or apply for an HC2 certificate so they can access free prescriptions and dental care.

Empowerment

People seeking asylum have often experienced traumatic events in their country of origin and are haunted by what has happened to them. Perhaps the most important part of our work is listening to people who chose to come to us, allowing them to feel valued and regain a sense of dignity. We do this through every interaction we have with our clients, but it is especially important in our ***Art and Writing, Choir, Dance and Exercise classes.*** These are sessions where clients can learn new skills, explore their emotions and begin to express themselves. This is crucially important to people who have experienced persecution for speaking out and may now feel like they have lost their voices. Our sessions offer people the chance to make friends and practise their English in a supportive, welcoming and friendly environment. Over the year we offered 39 Choir sessions online with Romain Malan, director of the World Harmony Orchestra, 39 Art and Writing sessions, led by our artists in residence, illustrator Jane Ray and author Sita Brahmachari and supported by a volunteer, illustrator Ros Asquith, 39 Gym classes and 39 Yoga classes.

Our Achievements And Impact In 2022

We are committed to monitoring and evaluating our work – we want to ensure that what we are doing genuinely meets the needs of our community.

Twice a year, we ask a sample of people to fill out a survey asking questions about the level of impact we are having on their lives. Many complete the survey independently online, others with difficulties with English or who have trouble reading and writing, will work with a volunteer. We are proud to say that our latest survey showed:

82% of people felt their English had improved.

83% of people felt more empowered.

91% of people felt that the Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants was listening and responding to their needs.

100% of people reported feeling that since starting at the Islington Centre their life is going in a better direction.

One client said:
'At Islington Centre, they help you like a family. They don't leave you halfway.'

Every new person who joins us is asked to fill out a questionnaire when they first arrive. The questionnaire asks about their circumstances including factors such as where they are living, their refugee status, whether they have a GP etc. We work with people intensively over time, in many cases for several years. Across each year, we track the positive changes we support people to make and the milestones they reach.

Looking ahead, we are developing an information management system which will allow us to create a profile of each person, with a detailed picture of how our support empowers them to move forward in their lives.

In 2022 our work resulted in excellent opportunities for our community.

147 people were supported with digital inclusion and felt more confident online (NB. some of these people were on our waiting list and not yet registered with us)

62 people had support with housing issues

11 people were helped into long-term accommodation

86 people had help to negotiate the asylum system

5 people achieved refugee status

30 people started at college

79 people had the means to access food and essentials because of our support packages

Our Plans For The Future
The New Strategy 2022 - 2025

Throughout the pandemic we operated under an emergency strategy, moving quickly and growing rapidly to keep pace with what our community needed. Now the restrictions of the pandemic have passed, but day-to-day reality for refugees and asylum seekers in London remains extremely challenging. Since the cost of living crisis began we have been supporting an average of three people a week into emergency accommodation. Meanwhile, around 42% of people who came to us in 2021-22 had nothing at all – their destitute status meant they had no right to work and no recourse to public funds.

We know we need to keep adapting in order to continue meeting the very high level of demand on us. In November 2022 our Board of Trustees approved a new three year strategy focused on strengthening our organisation, building our profile and partnerships and providing the services people need to rebuild their lives. The strategy was developed collaboratively. We started with a trustee vision day and then consulted with clients, volunteers and staff to set our objectives and take us through the next three years.

Objective One
Develop a Strong Organisation to underpin the work and enable the Centre to be the best it can be.

Objective Two
Provide Activities and Services for our clients to help relieve the issues they face and enable them to reach their potential.

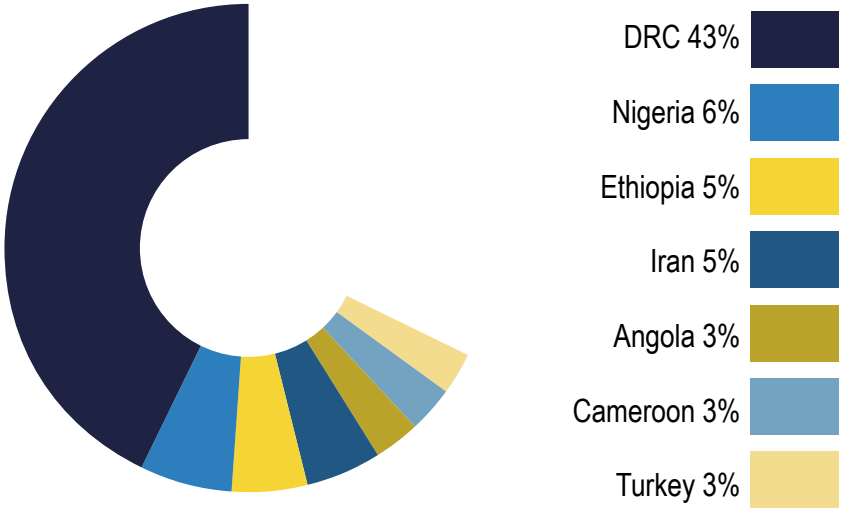
Objective Three
Build our profile and our partnerships to share the work we do and to increase support to carry it out.

The full strategy can be downloaded from: https://islingtoncentre.co.uk/strategy-2022-2025/

Who Are Our Clients And Where Do They Come From?

In 2022 178 people from 40 countries used the support we offer to begin to build a happy life in the UK.

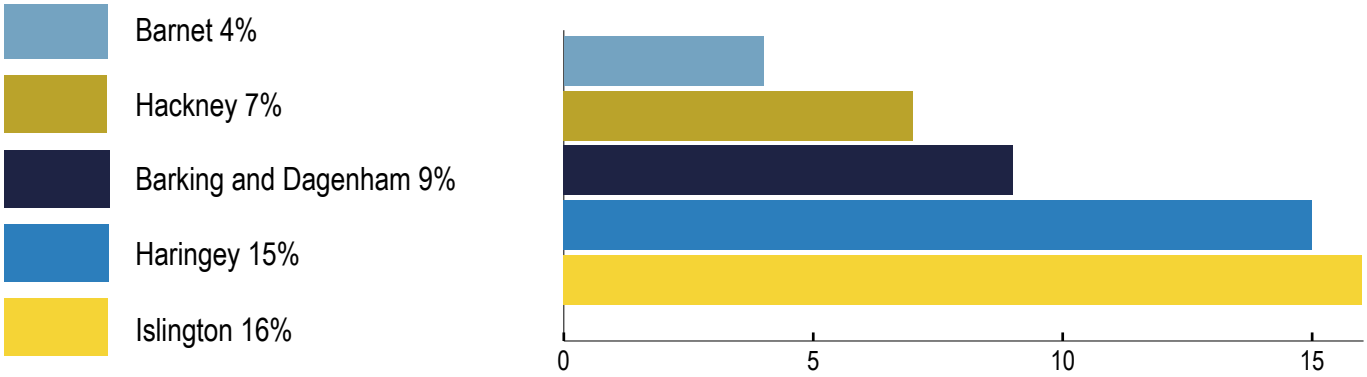
The top 7 countries of origin of our clients were:



In the year 67 people were men, 110 people were women and 1 person was transgender.

Many of the people who come have experienced human rights abuses, others are fleeing war and persecution.

People came to us from all over London. The top 5 boroughs were:



'When you are experiencing being an asylum seeker or refugee it is quite challenging. You lost your dignity and your humanity. I was experiencing losing my humanity. When I met the Centre I got the sense of my humanity, my dignity, coming back.'

Push bar to open

Case Study

Board member and former client Françis tells his story to our Head of Fundraising and Communications, Anna Giokas.

We recently caught up with Françis, who, having first visited the Centre in 2015, now has refugee status, a place he calls home, and will soon graduate with a Master's degree and has recently become a Trustee of the Centre. We learn about his inspirational journey.

When Françis first came to the Centre in 2015 he was a destitute asylum-seeker with a failed claim.

'I couldn't find a way out,' he says. 'I was nervous all of the time. You can be arrested or sent back.' At that time, he had no legal right to work and had no recourse to public funds. 'I was feeling distressed, my anxiety was getting higher every day,' he explains.

Now, seven years on, sitting with me on a bench in the sunshine outside our Christ Church site, life looks very different. Françis has refugee status, he is studying for a Master's degree in data analysis and he has applied for a position as a Trustee on our Board and been appointed.

What made the difference? He smiles. 'The Centre helped me to survive. They helped me to keep on going. They helped me to dream again and to look forward again and plan again and to see there is something around the corner – that I should hold on.'

As with so many people, it was a friend who first introduced Françis to our services. 'When I got to the Centre that first day everyone was very kind, the volunteers, the staff, everyone. There were some activities going on: reading, singing, English lessons. After I was registered they asked me to choose one of those activities and to start doing it.'

Remembering this, he laughs. 'It is not easy sometimes for a grown man to go and do certain activities, sometimes it is a bit funny. But, when you start doing those activities, you start enjoying the moment. It is your way out in your mind.'

Over the next three years, Françis became a regular at the Centre. 'I started to think I shall do something with my life, regardless of the fact that I was an asylum seeker with a refused case. I started planning that I would go to Uni. Those activities at the Centre put you in a state of mind where you can plan for the future, where you can say: ok, I will do this.'

Our Support Service referred Françis to a partner organisation which helped him to find a solicitor and make a fresh asylum claim and in 2018 he heard the fantastic news that refugee status was granted.

Françis continued to come to the Centre regularly – often five times a week – and in 2019 he was offered a place to study data analysis at the University of East London.

Now, he has refugee status, a place to live and he will soon graduate with a Master's degree.

So, what next?

He looks surprised. 'I am going to find a job,' he says. 'And, I want to do something for the Centre. The Centre helped me, now I want to help those people coming.'

Our Partners

We have a strong network of partnerships with organisations locally and throughout the refugee sector. In 2023 we recruited a Referral's Lead one day a week to support clients to access the many organisations we work with. Here we focus on Protein Dance – an award winning organisation which connects people and everyday life through dance.

A Message from Luca

'I am very proud of the relationship that Protein and Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants have developed over the last 10 years. Since my first visit to the Centre in 2013, I have felt a strong connection with the ethos and work that Andy and his staff and volunteers have been delivering with so much passion and care, providing a welcoming, learning and creative space for everyone visiting. As an artist who strongly believes in community practice and in the social, physical and mental benefits of participatory arts, I have found in ICRM a perfect partner to start and develop important and ambitious projects for and with refugees and asylum seekers.

Together, and with the support of The Place, we have managed to establish a much loved and popular weekly dance session at the Centre and a very successful intensive performance project, There and Here. First piloted in 2015, There and Here has recently matured into a bigger project and won Community Project of the Year at The Stage Awards 2023. A highlight of the year was performing to a packed audience at The Place in April.

As a migrant myself, I am deeply connected to this work and it's been incredibly rewarding to see the positive effects of these creative practices amongst the Centre's service users; as their bodies begin to relax and stretch, they naturally and freely start dancing to music and let go of all their life struggles and pains. Within this safe and creative activity, participants have felt encouraged to share their traditional dances and music as well as their lived experiences and emotions,

(left - right: Luca Silvestrini Artistic Director, Protein and Ramin a client at both the Centre and Protein Dance)

which have strongly moved and provoked those who came to see them performing. I have also enjoyed seeing the start of new friendships and artistic collaborations amongst the participants and with our dance artists. With no doubt these projects have hugely impacted my artistic practice and strengthen Protein's ongoing commitment to socially engaged art. ICRM and its people have now become so important to me, on a professional and personal level, and we are determined to continue this amazing journey together, looking at providing more creative opportunities to celebrate and empower the lives and skills of displaced people and communities. I'm so happy about the work we do together and I look forward to our next project together.'

Luca Silvestrini
Artistic Director, Protein

Funding Overview Of 2021 - 2022

2021-2022 saw a challenging external environment caused by the pandemic, the increase in the cost of living and general economic uncertainty throughout the year.

Where our funding came from in 2021-22.
Our income reduced from £436,041 in 2020-21 to £324,733 in 2021-22. This reduction of 25% was brought about by the tough economic climate, our own decision to spend reserves and because Covid grants had inflated our fundraising income to unusually high levels in 2020-21. For more details on our reserves, please see the financial statements. We have responded to the decrease by recruiting a second part-time fundraiser (two days per week) and building our profile to attract new funders with a new website and support from a freelance social media expert. Our fundraising portfolio remains strong and our supporter base is growing. We continue to see impressive results from our grant fundraising – we were recently delighted to secure a five year grant with the City Bridge Trust towards our Support Service and have similar multi-year grants with the Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation, Islington Council and Cloudesley.

Our total income for 2021-22 was £324,733. This came from the following sources:

Trusts and Foundations - 85% came from grant-giving Trusts and Foundations.

Individuals - 8% came from the generous donations of individuals.

Corporate partners - 4% came from corporate partners at match funding.

Community Partnerships - 3% of our income in the year came from our community partners, this includes a wide range of organisations many of which work with our clients directly, offering experiences and support alongside donations. For example Speak Street offers English lessons and Songworks offers the chance for clients to sing and perform.

Thanks To Our Funders

We rely entirely on the kindness and generosity of our supporters. Every single penny donated helps us empower refugees and asylum seekers to build a decent quality of life here in the UK. Listed here are the trusts, foundations and companies which made our work possible in 2021-22. There are many partners and individuals who supported our work too of course, too many to name here – and we would like to say a huge thank you to each and every supporter who makes our work possible.

AB Charitable Trust
Central District Alliance Islington Community Fund (through the Action Funder platform)
Cloudesley
Comic Relief (London Together)
Cripplegate
Diana Parker Charitable Settlement
French Huguenot Church Of London Charitable Trust
Fulmer Charitable Trust
Garfield Weston Foundation
Islington Council (through the VCS fund)
Leathersellers' Company
Leigh Charitable Trust
Lloyds Bank Foundation
London Churches Refugee Fund
Macquarie Group
Michael and Harriet Maunsell Charitable Trust
National Lottery (Reaching Communities)
Not Actual Size
Plan A Consultants
Porta Pia 2012 Foundation
Postcode Society Trust
Proud to Pitch Greene King (through the Action Funder Platform)
Reel Fund (through the London Community Foundation)
Semble Network Ltd
St Mary Islington
Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation
Swan Mountain Trust
The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust
The South Bank Centre
Waylan Trust

Partnership with Plan A Consultants: We were delighted that 2022 marked the beginning of our partnership with design management company Plan A Consultants. Every week, volunteers from the award winning company based in Clerkenwell sent volunteers to support our online English classes and to our Centre to help with everything from distributing toiletries collected by the company to digital inclusion. Thank you so much to everyone at Plan A!

Reference and Administrative Details

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER:	07076199
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER:	1135205
TRUSTEES:	Victoria Rae (Chair) Victor de Waal Teresa Dodgson Gladys Jusu-Sheriff Richard Nicholson Kathy Margerison
REGISTERED OFFICE:	Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants 16-18 Cross Street London N1 2BG 020 7354 9946 islingtoncentre@gmail.com www.islingtoncentre.co.uk
PRIMARY BANKERS:	The Co-operative Bank PO Box 250, Delf House Southway Skelmersdale WN8 6WT
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:	Mr J P Foxwell FCCA FCIE independent-examiner.net 39 Enfield Road Poole BH15 3LJ

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees, who are also directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the Companies Act, submit their report and the financial statements for the year ending 31 August 2022.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the governing document, the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

STATUS: The company was incorporated on 13 November 2009 and is limited by guarantee. The company is a registered charity (no: 1135205) and was registered on 25 March 2010. The Memorandum and Articles of Association form the governing documents of the charitable company. The limit of the members' guarantee is £10. No provision for taxation has been made on the basis that the charitable company is exempt from Corporation Tax on its charitable activities.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: The principal activity of the charitable company in the year under review was Education - Adult and other education

OBJECTIVES: The Objectives as described in the Memorandum and Articles of Association reads as follows:

1.To advance education and relieve financial hardship amongst those seeking asylum and those granted refugee status by the provision of advice, training and support.

2. To advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum.

3. To advance the Christian religion by living out our love for neighbour and bringing the stranger of any or no faith into our community.

All work of the charitable company has been dedicated to the furtherance of these objectives.

BANK ACCOUNTS
The Centre's main bank account is with the Cooperative Bank. The Centre has a savings deposit account with Triodos and no further bank accounts were opened throughout the year. The Centre has an account with PayPal in order to receive online donations. Donations are also received via Charities Aid Foundation.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Trustees have given due consideration to the Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit - SORP reference 1.18.

Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants is committed to its objectives in all its activities. The principal activities, in line with the Charity Commission's public benefit description are:

The advancement of education comprising the delivery of a range of services including: English to refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, art and creative writing, dance, choir and exercise based activities in order to build confidence within and up-skill all those who access our services.

A Support Service offering practical help, referrals and guidance for clients needing help. Relief of Hardship so destitute clients have access to a range of services that help to relieve both short and long term hardship. This includes our Support Package programme for destitute asylum seekers. This helps destitute clients with essential living costs that they would otherwise not be able to afford.

On completing activities at the Centre many of our clients progress onto additional higher level further education courses in their chosen subject area, volunteer roles in the community or to paid employment positions. Asylum seekers who are prohibited from working are welcomed to continue attending the Centre while they await the outcome of their asylum application.

Islington Centre has a comprehensive website and internet profile in order to present its work and the wider impact of its activities and services on refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. It shines a light on the struggles of its service users in order to educate the public on the issues faced by its client group.

Volunteering is a critical element in the development of a strong community and it is this which mutually benefits the wider community and the Centre. At any given time there are around 40 volunteers contributing to the work of the Centre undertaking activities as varied as preparing food parcels, supporting clients with their everyday or more complex problems, facilitating craft groups and furthering their experiences of British life through our enrichment programme.

THE CHANGE WE WANT TO SEE

We work to ensure positive, sustainable change for asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants.

Our Centre is a place where:

- Asylum seekers, refugees and migrants feel safe and welcome
- Asylum seekers, refugees and migrants can meet with each other and with the local community to build friendships and share stories
- Asylum seekers, refugees and migrants are supported to improve their emotional and physical wellbeing

We support our clients to:

- Be independent and empowered
- Be confident in communicating with people around them, and in a position to seize opportunities to build new skills and experiences
- Have access to income, housing, healthcare, education and a stable immigration status

We do this through providing the following services and activities:

- English language lessons
- Skills development activities, workshops and partnerships
- Crisis support to meet immediate need, including emergency grants, donations and support to access shelter
- Advice and advocacy on income, housing, education, healthcare, and supporting people to secure their immigration status
- Health checks, exercise and donations of food, toiletries and sanitary protection
- Providing a safe, welcoming space, including therapeutic arts activities
- Social and recreational activities
- Opportunities to share to help the community engage with, support and understand our clients

TRUSTEES

The trustees (who also act as directors for Companies Act purposes) who served during the year 2021-22 are as follows:

	Appointment Start	Appointment End
Rev Victor de Waal	01/09/10	Continuing
Victoria Rae (Chair)	17/01/22	Continuing
Teresa Dodgson	21/06/12	Continuing
Gladys Jusu-Sheriff	21/06/12	Continuing
Beverley van der Sluis	21/06/12	20/11/22
James Fletcher	04/10/12	20/11/22
Edward Vargas Caceres	04/10/12	26/03/22
Richard Nicholson	26/11/18	Continuing
Kathy Margerison	14/03/22	Continuing

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs and of the surplus or deficit for the year.

In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

• select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

• make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

• state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP; and

• prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for:

• keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity; and

• safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- agreement on strategy and an annual budget approved by the trustees;
- regular consideration by the trustees of financial results, variance from budgets, and non-financial performance indicators;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties; and identification and management of risks.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The trustees have developed and work closely with an active risk register in order to manage any issues and to minimise disruption in the event of a realised risk.

The Centre has insurance policies as follows:
• Employers' Liability insurance with Markel International Insurance Company Limited
• Public Liability insurance with Markel International Insurance Company Limited
• Directors and Officers Management Liability Insurance with Marsh Omega

The Centre has in place a Safeguarding Policy for vulnerable adults and children that it works with.

The Centre has in place a Health and Safety policy which includes a Risk Assessment.

The trustees have prepared and agreed to comply to a Code of Conduct.

RESERVES

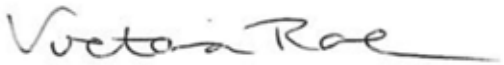
Reserves Statement:
The net current assets of £216,941 comprise restricted funds of £64,901 and unrestricted reserves of £152,040. The unrestricted reserves represent 4.1 months of our total projected costs for 2022-23.

Designated Redundancy Fund:
£28,000 has been designated to a redundancy fund giving free reserves of £124,040. The free reserves element of the current assets represents approximately 3.5 months' running costs of the expenditure budget for 2022-23.

Our Reserves Policy:
Our policy is to maintain unrestricted funds of between 3 to 6 months of average operating costs as an Operating Reserve Fund to ensure the sustainability of the charity and future delivery and development of services.

Note on Reserves carried over from 2020-21 to 2021-22:
The year 2020-21 had seen an increased income of £436,041 (compared with the 2019-20 income of £365,630) as a result of a positive response from our fundraising work including emergency funding in response to COVID:19, post-pandemic recovery and rebuilding funds. In order to maintain the recovery and rebuilding of Islington Centre and maintain a balanced budget in a time of relative growth, the trustees allocated £62,983 of the unrestricted reserves as at 31st August 2021 to the overall costs of running the Centre in 2021-22. This also returned reserves to be within the trustees' stated policy.

This report was approved by the Board on 13th March 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Victoria Shelley Rae
Chair of Trustees

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ISLINGTON CENTRE FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2022 which comprise a Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and related notes.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement
Since the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of both the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and the Association of Charity Independent Examiners (ACIE), both of which are listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. The accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mr J P Foxwell FCCA FCIE
independent-examiner.net

39 Enfield Road
Poole
BH15 3LJ

Date: 13th March 2023.

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2022 (including an Income and Expenditure Account)

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2022 £	2021 £
INCOME					
Donations and legacies		81,113	71,158	152,271	223,938
Charitable activities	2	589	171,692	172,281	210,768
Other income		181	-	181	1,335
Total income		**81,883**	**242,850**	**324,733**	**436,041**
EXPENDITURE					
Costs of generating income		-	-	-	1,469
Charitable activities	3	144,866	240,576	385,442	363,177
Total expenditure		**144,866**	**240,576**	**385,442**	**364,646**
Net income/ (expenditure) and net movement in funds		**(62,983)**	**2,275**	**(60,709)**	**71,395**
Funds brought forward		215,023	62,626	277,649	206,254
Funds carried forward		£152,040	£64,901	£216,941	£277,649

The Statement of Financial Activities reflects the results of continuing activities for the year.

There are no recognised gains and losses other than those shown in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Balance Sheet at 31 August 2022

	Notes	£	2022 £	£	2021 £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors and accrued income	5	8,236		3,425	
Cash at bank and in hand		218,047		274,224	
		226,283		277,649	
CREDITORS – amounts falling due in less than one year	6	(9,342)		-	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			£216,941		£277,649
FUNDS					
General fund			124,040		190,023
Designated fund	7		28,000		25,000
Total unrestricted funds			152,040		215,023
Restricted funds	10		64,901		62,626
Total funds			£216,941		£277,649

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act) relating to the audit of the financial statements for the year by virtue of section 477, and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.
These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the trustees on 13th March 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Victoria Shelley Rae
Chair of Trustees

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – Charities SORP (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

(a) Company status

The charity is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company are those persons included in the register of members and include the trustees named on page 23. In the event of the charitable company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member.

(b) Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charitable company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

(c) Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charitable company is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

(d) Pensions

During the financial year ending 31 August 2022 pension provision continued with the employer's contribution being 8% for all staff. The Centre adheres to the Auto Enrolment Scheme and is compliant with the requirements as set out by the Pensions Regulator. The Centre's pensions' service provider is The Pensions Trust.

(e) Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Governance costs, now included within charitable activity costs, are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

2. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
AB Charitable Trust	-	-	-	20,000
City Bridge Trust	-	-	-	30,000
Comic Relief (London Together)	-	3,778	3,778	41,205
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	30,000	30,000	30,000
Islington Council	-	20,000	20,000	18,750
Leathersellers' Company	-	10,000	10,000	10,000
London Churches Refugee Fund	-	2,500	2,500	1,750
London Community Response – Wave 3	-	-	-	3,500
Postcode Society Trust	-	16,335	16,335	-
Cloudesley – Catalyst	-	5,000	5,000	5,000
Cloudesley – Welfare	-	17,000	17,000	20,000
Cloudesley – Support	-	30,000	30,000	30,000
Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation 2	-	17,090	17,090	-
Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation 3	-	19,989	19,989	-
Victor de Waal Book Proceeds	589	-	589	563
	£589	**£171,692**	**£172,281**	**£210,768**

3. COSTS OF ACTIVITIES IN FURTHERANCE OF THE CHARITABLE OBJECTS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Client Activities	4,462	8,006	12,468	16,679
Client Hardship Payments	26,519	36,601	63,120	94,646
Client Travel and Subsistence	1,582	1,700	3,282	-
Governance Costs	1,192	650	1,842	4,821
Running Costs	16,110	10,227	26,337	26,541
Salaries and associated on-costs	88,999	168,462	257,461	199,563
Sessional Workers	5,470	14,032	19,502	18,968
Staff and Volunteer Development	272	898	1,170	1,959
Volunteer Costs	259	-	259	-
	£144,866	**£240,576**	**£385,442**	**£363,177**

4. STAFF COSTS

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Salaries and wages	221,666	173,401
Social security costs	17,446	12,457
Pension costs	17,410	12,842
	£256,521	**£198,700**

No employees had employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2021 – nil).

The average monthly headcount was 7 staff (2021 – 7 staff).

5. DEBTORS AND ACCRUED INCOME

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Prepayment	3,236	-
Accrued grant income	5,000	3,425
	£8,236	**£3,425**

6. CREDITORS AND DEFERRED INCOME

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Creditors	1,582	-
Deferred grant income	4,760	-
	£6,342	£nil

7. DESIGNATED FUND

The trustees have designated £28,000 as a contingency against unexpected staff costs.

8. TRUSTEES

No trustee received any remuneration during the year. No expenses were reimbursed to any trustee during the year ending 31 August 2021 or 31 August 2022.

9. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Current assets	154,382	71,901	226,283	277,649
Creditors	(1,582)	(4,760)	(6,342)	-
	£152,800	**£67,141**	**£216,941**	**£277,649**

10. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance b/f £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance c/f £
Islington Council	417	20,000	(20,000)	417
Speak Street fund	-	170	(170)	-
London Churches Refugee Fund	-	2,500	(2,500)	-
Comic Relief (London Together)	8,816	3,778	(12,594)	-
Cloudesley – Catalyst fund	1,667	5,000	(5,000)	1,667
Cloudseley – Welfare fund	-	17,000	(17,000)	-
Cloudseley – Support Service	2,500	30,000	(30,000)	2,500
Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation 2	-	17,090	(17,090)	-
Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation 3	-	19,989	-	19,989
AB Charitable Trust	8,333	-	(8,333)	-
Leathersellers' Company	8,333	10,000	(10,000)	8,333
National Lottery C-19 Response - Operation	-	60,000	(60,000)	-
National Lottery – Reaching Communities	15,000	-	-	15,000
Postcode Society Trust	-	16,335	(10,900)	5,435
Garfield Weston Foundation	17,560	30,000	(30,000)	17,560
Semble Network Ltd	-	3,000	(3,000)	-
St Mary Islington	-	2,202	(2,202)	-
The South Bank Centre	-	786	(786)	-
French Huguenots Church of London Charitable Trust	-	5,000	(5,000)	-
Action Funder – Greene King	-	3,000	(3,000)	-
Swan Mountain Trust	-	4,000	(1,000)	3,000
Lloyds Foundation Bank (Unrestricted)	-	-	(2,000)	(2,000)
	£62,626	**£249,850**	**£(240,575)**	

Address: 16-18 Cross Street London N1 2BG

General enquiries email address: info.islingtoncentre@gmail.com

Website: islingtoncentre.co.uk

Facebook: @IslingtonCentre Twitter: @IslingtonCentre

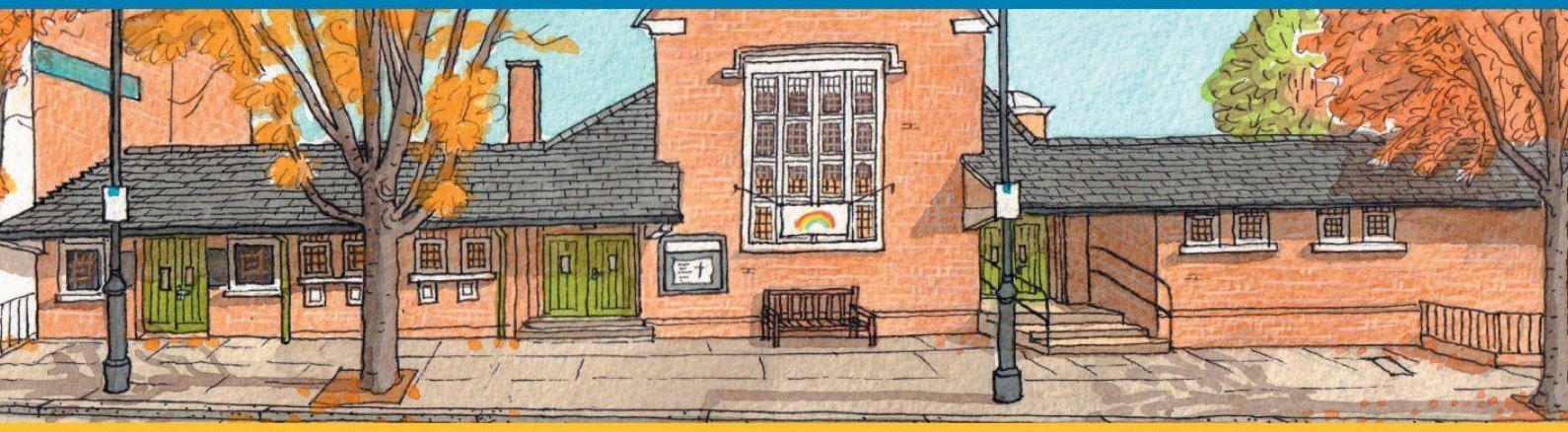
Charity registration number: 1135205
Company limited guarantee number: 07076199

ISLINGTON CENTRE FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1135205

Accounts

Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants



Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements

31st August 2021

Annual Report and Financial Statements to 31 August 2021

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A word from our Patron, Juliet Stevenson

2020-21 was unquestionably one of the most challenging years the Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants has ever faced. Covid-19 meant that the Centre's doors remained closed, which was unavoidable and very difficult indeed for the people for whom the Centre is often the only home or community that they have.

Andy and the staff worked hard to support everyone in our community and to offer everything that was wonderful about the Centre online or by phone.

Firstly, they sent support packages to those most in need throughout the year.

Secondly, staff personally ensured that clients were included and reached out to regularly, to prevent individuals backsliding into depression and many kinds of need. The Support Service offered practical help with any issues people were facing, for example with finding accommodation or with their legal cases which were inevitably delayed.

Thirdly, and this is what impressed me the most, 2020-21 was a year of Zoom, with classes moving online so that clients could keep working alongside their teachers and have a sense that their education was continuing. An online community was created – something we never thought would be possible – allowing people to feel that they were still maintaining a live link with the Centre even during the most difficult days of lockdown.

Now, as I write this in the early months of 2022, I am so proud and delighted to say that the physical Centre is back operating again offering hot food, activities and a place of comfort and acceptance every Wednesday – this now runs alongside the online 'school' which developed over the years of Covid.

Again, and as ever, I am so impressed and in awe of the commitment across the board of the staff at the Centre, and also of the extraordinary resilience and courage of the clients.

I remain very proud to be a Patron, and would strongly encourage anyone in a position to do so to offer as much financial support to the Centre as possible. With thanks and best wishes,

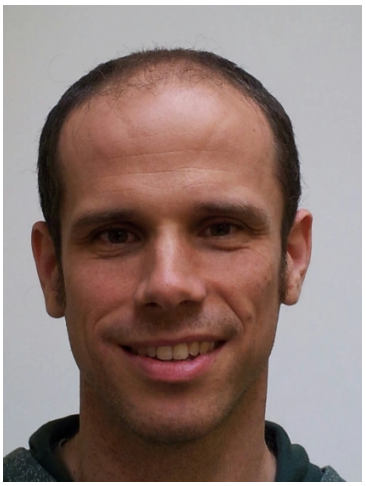
Juliet Stevenson

Message from our Chair, Victor de Waal

Reading the Report for the last very challenging year of the Pandemic our friends and supporters will see the remarkably imaginative way our staff and numerous volunteers, under the leadership of the Chief Executive Andy Ruiz Palma, have responded to the pressing needs of our valued and so vulnerable clients. The majority in the context of the increasingly hostile and shameful regime of this country remain asylum seekers with no other means of support and our Centre has enabled them not only to survive but to prosper.

This year marks the end of my chairmanship of the Trustees. It has been a great privilege to serve in this role and as a volunteer over many years. I am delighted to welcome Victoria Rae as my successor and we look forward to her contributing her many gifts and experience for the future.

Report from the Chief Executive, Andy Ruiz Palma



This year has seen some of the greatest changes and developments in the Centre's history. As I write, we are thankfully finally starting to see the lifting of Covid restrictions and a move towards a more recognisable post pandemic society. However, looking back at the start of the year in September 2020 it was a different story.

By that time, we had closely examined everything we do and worked out how to ensure continuation of our activities and services. We had identified the key areas that we support clients with and taken them all online and developed them into a three point plan that met clients' immediate needs:

1. Emergency Support Packages
2. Support Service
3. Learning and Enrichment Activity Sessions

During this year 2020-21, we further developed these activities and services and the three point plan to enable engagement with clients at the level that met their particular individual needs.

We quickly realised that, due to the continued restrictions, that this strategy was here to stay for the foreseeable future. Work began to ensure sustainability and to continue to develop our way of engaging with clients dealing with ever increasing hardship and the complexities of sustained isolation and fear experienced by our clients. Our clients' issues and problems intensified and the team got stuck in.

During the year, we learned to be continually growing and to be flexible and nimble in order to make the work responsive to need and also scalable. We created a sound base on which to either continue within the pandemic or be ready at a moment's notice to move into our hybrid delivery service of both online and in-person. It has not been easy but we did it. We ensured that the clients continued to be engaged throughout the year by listening to them and adding new sessions and activities as requested; within the Support Service we engaged with an increasing and deeper need among the client group in areas of support including accommodation, access to healthcare, hardship and digital poverty; we brought in essential support for women on a systematic and regular basis to combat period poverty; we responded to an increasing workload by expanding the team to add the essential roles of Activities and Services Coordinator and Reception and Referrals Lead.

We carried with us much of the learning from the previous year and taking a moment to review, we said:

We have learned that: we can weather the storm because we keep the clients close; we can provide a service online to our clients through overcoming hurdles like digital exclusion and loneliness; community can be sustained seemingly through any form of contact and not just physical presence; as a team we can come together and overcome situations that challenge every corner of our comfort zone.

I can confidently say that this learning and our development as a team have carried us through the year 2020-21.
A quick glance of our strategic perspective through the pandemic reads as follows:
Phase 1 - Crisis Response
An immediate response to ensure clients' immediate needs are met.
Phase 2 - Transformation
To maintain regular contact with clients to ensure ongoing support; To establish the services we offer to clients and to develop them to fit in with the new remote online world; Establish funding security.
Phase 3 - Sustainability.
Move to a more sustainable model of online delivery of our activities and services.
Phase 4 - To develop a 'hybrid' model of both in-person and online activities and services.
Post Lockdown when restrictions are lifted. Offer a hybrid integrated service to our clients with a digital inclusion and also at the Centre's premises.

The year's work mostly fell into Phase 3 and Phase 4 of the strategy. During this time we continued to test our own systems and constantly tweak and improve them to create a robust mechanism to meet the needs of our clients as best as possible remotely and online. This would enable us to continue with this online service even when we moved out of the pandemic and reintroduce in-person activities.

Examples of these systems include: a more targeted and more systematic referral mechanism to help clients find ways of moving on and engaging with specialist organisations; a refining and increasing of the Sessions we offer including the excellent and engaging English classes that have been so well attended..

In the previous report, we also said:

We of course look forward to a time when we are able to return to meeting our community again in person but we will be carrying forward alongside it our new-found digital engagement. This forms part of our Phase 4 and will be a hybrid model of both in-person and online activities and services.

Looking back at the strategy, the entire year 2020-21 was spent in lockdown with a plan to open in-person in September 2021. I am so pleased to say this has now begun. Since the writing of the report, we have started back in person on a regular basis at the Centre's premises and that client numbers and engagements are building healthily.

The online and the in-person models are successfully running simultaneously and we are able to reach a greater number of clients and retain clients who would otherwise not have been able to continue due to moving accommodation or increased other commitments in their lives.

Our main achievement is that we have delivered on Phase 4 of our Strategy. We developed a hybrid service of both online and in-person activities and services!

Embedded well throughout were two key offerings:
Support Packages. The support packages started as soon as the pandemic began and continued to ensure hardship support for our destitute asylum seeker clients who were most in need. It was a tremendous achievement that we were concerned would become unsustainable but thankfully through a focussed fundraising strategy has continued to this day. It is a lifeline to assist with essential food and items and also to access ours and other organisations services.
Digital Inclusion Programme. Digital engagement is essential in accessing any services in any organisation. For us this means providing phones and laptops, topping up clients' data, training clients to use Zoom and other applications, demonstrating and teaching the language around the texts and helping clients to become conversant in the digital conversation.

Team cohesiveness has been essential in every aspect of the Centre. The staff, volunteers and Session leads have all learned to work together in new ways to reach the overall goals of the Centre. It has not been easy and as a team we have faced challenges on how to best carry out our work online and keep strong working relationships. But with an understanding of our common drive to help the clients, we have travelled far together and some of the achievements that you will see later on in this report we thought we could never achieve. Each step has been character building and has strengthened the cohesiveness and effectiveness of the team overall. I offer a huge thank you to each and every person active in the Centre.

So what can we say we have learned and can carry with us into the next year? We have learned to work effectively online; to open channels of communication to all clients to mirror the simplicity of being at a physical Centre; to create and develop staff roles to make regular proactive contact with all clients; to manage ever changing Covid restrictions and politics to get the right balance to help people back in-person post pandemic; to hold our nerve in testing times. Other significant steps were building a waiting list for a post pandemic time: a two stream programme where clients on the waiting list could access English classes while awaiting full enrolment post pandemic. I am pleased to say that all have now been offered places and many have stayed with us in our community.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continually develop our activities and services in line with demand and to refine and scale up both the online and in-person offering. We have built a strong team with a wealth of experience and as we understand our clients more and more we will be able to better utilise this experience and deploy skills effectively to accompany and support clients on their journey. Now we are post pandemic, we will be preparing a new three year strategy over the coming months to ensure we are resourced to meet our objectives. We continue to welcome new clients and form new relationships and they bring with them new stories from around the world and new struggles which we will work together to overcome.

At the heart of the Centre is this relationship with the client. The time and space to hear their story and respond to any rising need. The clients who come to us work with us to help us help them help themselves. It is a beautiful cycle of support. The Centre was born of the need to help its clients. The Centre is ever changing to meet those needs as they change but always circling around the connection with the client that is the spark that we believe ignites a beautiful upward cycle.

Andy Ruiz Palma
Chief Executive

Review of the Year 2020-21

What we do

At the Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants we have been welcoming people to our community since 1997, wherever they have come from, whatever has happened in their lives. Our approach is not political or institutional but individual, compassionate and human. We welcome people, listen to what they need and respond to that. Whether someone is looking for English lessons, advice on housing, accessing healthcare, applying to college or any of the many challenges of being a migrant in London – we are here for them. You can visit our website here: https://islingtoncentre.co.uk/

Our mission

The Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants works to create a strong, positive, community for people who have been displaced from their countries of origin due to persecution, war, and poverty.

We create a sense of belonging and comfort for those who have left their homes. We provide practical tools and structure to help displaced people to rebuild their lives. We link asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants with local people to build a stronger community for everyone.

Our impact in 2020-21

For the people who come to us 2020-21 was an extremely challenging year. The national lockdown in the early months of 2021 and the ongoing social distancing measures meant real hardship. Destitute asylum seekers struggled with food and basic supplies as the charities which usually would have supported them – including ours – continued to operate remotely. For others, the government measures meant being moved at short notice to areas where they knew no one, delays in their asylum cases, difficulties making health appointments and a deepening sense of isolation.

At the Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants, we are a small team, but we are dedicated and we did everything we possibly could to be here for people. For asylum seekers who are legally barred from working and must get by on £5.66 a day, or nothing at all in the case of those who are destitute, we provided support packages to allow people to access food, basic supplies and phone and internet credit. Across the year we sent 2340 support packages costing us a total of £93,600 – a huge undertaking for a charity of our size, but we did it because we knew that it was the right thing to do – we know for some of the people we work with this was all they had and was a real lifeline. They knew that someone cared.

Meanwhile, we offered English lessons, Art and Writing classes, Choir, Gym, Yoga and much more remotely via Zoom. Working this way, we were able to keep our community together and give people much needed sense of human contact.

We are so proud that in a survey completed at the end of the year 86% of people said that, despite the hardships of another very difficult year, their sense of happiness had either remained the same or increased.

We were humbled by the resilience and strength people showed in coming to our Support Service to look for the help they needed to create a better life for themselves.

Through our new Support Service referrals process we helped 15 people into college and worked with 2 people studying at university. Meanwhile, we supported 12 people to gain refugee status – one of the biggest milestones in people's journey towards a better life here in the UK – and through our interventions helped 20 people out of destitution.

It was a year like no other we have known. It made our team stronger and it taught us so much. After hundreds of hours of 1-1 phone calls to check in that people were doing ok in the pandemic, and more than 10,000 Zoom sessions with small groups, we now have a much deeper understanding of the people we work with.

Now, in 2022, taking everything we have learned and the new hybrid model we have developed, we look ahead to the future with a sense of optimism and will continue finding new ways to be here for everyone in our community.

Our impact in 2020-21

133 clients supported throughout the year

15 people helped to enrol on college courses

We digitally included **105** clients to enable access to online services

20 people helped out of destitution

12 people were supported through the process of obtaining refugee status

We gave out over **2340** support packages for food and essentials to asylum seekers

2020-21, a year online – digital inclusion

An online staff and volunteer meeting

By September 2020 we had started to create something which we never thought was possible – a community of refugees and asylum seekers meeting and learning online.

We started the academic year with a 'pilot phase' offering the English classes we had established in the early days of the pandemic and broadening the timetable to include more online activities and groups, including Art and Writing, online Choir, online Gym and online Support Service group sessions for the first time. By Christmas, we could see that – just as English classes had worked online – so did many of our other activities.

Empowering people to join our online activities became a key part of our work. Many lacked equipment, others lacked digital skills.

We secured funding for equipment and recruited Shannon, our Activities and Services Coordinator, whose role partly involved buying and sending out phones and laptops, and talking people through the technical process of getting on the internet and joining Zoom sessions.

We were humbled by how people stepped up to the challenge of joining us online and are proud to say that by August 2021, the end of our academic and financial year, we had 123 people out of 133 regularly joining us online.

Now, in 2022, digital inclusion remains key to our work. Our online timetable continues to grow and develop and alongside it, we offer hot food, a warm welcome, advice and support and activities at our Centre in Islington.

"Zoom lesson is good because I can do it from home." S told us.

Who are our Clients?

In 2020-21 we worked with 133 people from 39 countries across the world who came to the UK seeking sanctuary and a better life. We had clients from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Syria, Russia, China and many other countries. We welcomed people regardless of their immigration status, race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age or any other factor. Having fled persecution, war, or human rights abuses, they arrive in London suffering from the effects of their experiences.

In 2020-21 we worked with:

- 133 people
- 90 were women
- 43 were men
- they were aged between 18 years old and 80 years old.

In 2020-21 the people who chose to come to us originated from 39 countries including:

Country of origin	**Number of people**	**% of our client group in 200-21**
Democratic Republic of Congo	59	44%
Turkey	10	8%
Nigeria	8	6%
Ethiopia	5	4%
Eritrea	4	3%
Pakistan	4	3%

Other countries of origin included: Abkhazia, Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Belarus, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Gabon, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Ivory Coast, Kosovo, Kuwait, Mauritius, Namibia, Russia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Vietnam, Zambia.

Where do our clients live?

The people who come to us often stay in hostels or are ‘sofa surfing’, not knowing where they will sleep from one week to the next. Those who are seeking asylum may be in government accommodation, usually sharing a house with other families. One of the best solutions for people is to find a refugee hosting family – a family which offers a room to a refugee or family without charge.

For many, the Centre offers a sense of home. When people come to us, they find kindness and a safe space where they are heard and valued and have the chance to make friends.

Raphael (not his real name), an asylum seeker said: ‘Islington Centre is a family to me.’

In 2020-21 people came from many boroughs across London

The people we work with move from place to place across London, sometimes finding themselves transferred at very short notice. The top 10 boroughs our clients were staying in are:

- Haringey 17%
- Islington 13%
- Hackney 8%
- Hillingdon 6%
- Newham 5%
- Enfield 5%
- Ealing 4%
- Camden 4%
- Waltham Forest 3%
- Lambeth 3%

Map showing where our clients were staying in London in 2020-21

We understand that there is confusion around different types of displaced people and their rights in the UK

An asylum seeker is someone who has left their country because of persecution, human rights abuses and war. They cannot return because they fear for their life and have asked the UK government for the right to stay in this country. While they make this application, they receive £39.63 a week and are mainly unable to work. 88 of our clients were asylum seekers.

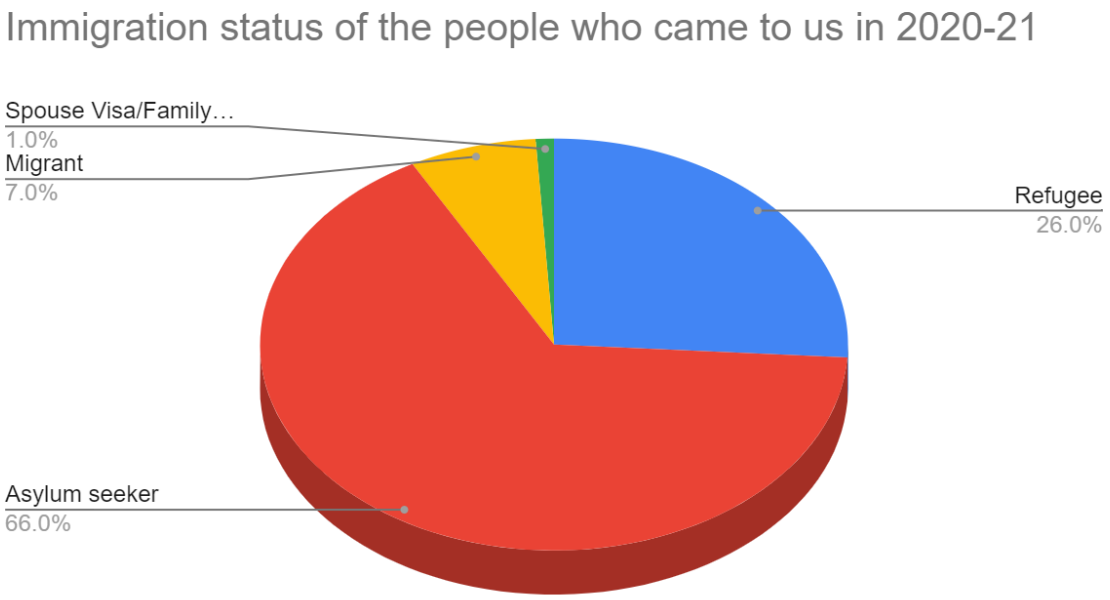
A destitute asylum seeker is someone who is trying to appeal the government's refusal of their application for asylum, having reached the end of the asylum system. While they try to make this appeal, they have no access to financial support or housing and are unable to work. Of the 88 asylum seekers we worked with, 57 were destitute asylum seekers.

A refugee is someone who has been given the right to stay in the UK for five years as the government has believed and accepted their claim for asylum. Although refugees have the right to stay, they still need help to rebuild their lives in an unfamiliar country. 34 of our clients were refugees.

A migrant is someone who has come to this country to make a better life for themselves. Often migrants send money back to support family in their own country. There are restrictions on services they can access, such as healthcare. A lack of English language can make it hard for migrants to fit in. 9 of our clients were migrants.

In 2020-21:

- 66% of our clients were asylum seekers
- 26% were refugees
- 7% were migrants
- 1% were on a spouse/family reunification visa



Rebecca's story

Rebecca has the most amazing laugh. If you hear her laugh, you will want to laugh too.

We are on Zoom. She is on the staircase in the house she and her husband and two teenage children share with two other families. It is the most private place she can find for this conversation.

'I set my alarm for this appointment, I was sleeping,' she tells me. It is six-thirty in the evening on a Monday. Rebecca is tired because she has been at college all day and shares a bed with her 15-year-old daughter, in a tiny bedroom of the National Asylum Support Service accommodation she has been provided by the government.

'Thank you for speaking with me,' I tell her. She smiles at me and I smile back. Screen to screen. This is how it works now.

I ask her about her life before coming to the UK to seek asylum. This is her story:
Rebecca grew up in the Democratic Republic of Congo where she trained to be a nurse: 'Nursing is my vocation, it is what I want to do,' she explains. She married and had two children and life was good, except that she could see around her inequality and injustice. 'In Congo there is not freedom. You have no right to express yourself or claim your rights,' she explains. Wanting a better country for her children to grow up in, she began going to political meetings and became involved with opposition activity.

The government became aware of her opposition and she was taken from her home and imprisoned. Eventually, she found a way to escape and left the country, travelling through Angola, to Portugal and France and eventually to England.

'When I came to England, my friends, they told me if you want to learn English there is a centre where you can learn and they help you with many many things, there are many activities. You can do gym, you can do choir. But what I like most at Islington Centre is meeting people. When we go to the centre, we laugh, we joke, we take coffee, tea, we eat. The staff are ready to help, they help me too much.'

We helped Rebecca contact an agency which put her in touch with her 14-year-old son who had become separated from the family on the journey and was still in France. Meanwhile we supported Rebecca as she went through the difficult process of finding legal representation, applying for accommodation, applying for college and making an asylum claim.

More recently, throughout the pandemic, we have been here for Rebecca with a support package every fortnight.

Now, Rebecca is waiting for a decision on her asylum claim. If granted leave to remain, I ask her: What does she hope for? *'I don't wish for special things, I wish to have a good life. To live normally, as a human being...I wish to have my family and work as a nurse so that I can help other people as they have helped me.'*

What problems do we help our clients overcome?

Insecure immigration status: Insecure immigration status limits access to housing, income, healthcare, employment and education. It leaves people at risk of detention in the UK and removal to their country of origin. Navigating the asylum and immigration system in the UK is incredibly difficult. Our Support Service is here for people who need help to seek legal representation and negotiate the system. In 2020-21 we supported 12 people through the process of gaining refugee status. Looking ahead, in 2022 we hope to achieve OISC accreditation so that we can give immigraion advice for the first time.

Communication: Lack of English means people are reliant on support from English-speakers to access services. Important letters, phone calls, or conversations can be misunderstood or accidentally ignored. It is extremely difficult to build supportive social networks, without being able to communicate. In 2020-21 our highly experienced English teachers provided a range of online English classes online. We worked with 121 people and 86% reported feeling they had improved or maintained their ability to communicate in English during the year.

Isolation: For people who have left their country of origin, this can mean leaving behind friends and family. Poverty, insecure immigration status, and lack of communication skills in English further increase the isolation that our clients face. In 2020-21 we offered online groups and classes throughout the week where people could speak to our staff and see one another, and we made regular phone calls to check in with everyone on our register. For some, this was often the only contact they had each day.

Poverty: Everyone who comes to the Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants experiences a level of poverty. Asylum seekers are effectively barred from working, and must get by on £5.66 a day. Some groups, such as asylum seekers who have received a negative decision and are gathering evidence to challenge it, are not eligible for any financial support from the government at all, and are not able to work, leaving them destitute and homeless. In 2020-21 we provided support packages to those most in need every two weeks allowing people to live with dignity and access food, essentials and – increasingly important – digital credit. Now, in 2022 we are continuing the support package programme for people who are destitute and we offer hot food at our Centre every Wednesday and a ‘free shop’ of ambient food and toiletries.

Physical wellbeing: Many people at the Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants have injuries or illnesses caused by their experiences in their country of origin or in the UK. A significant number experience chronic illnesses. We support people to improve their physical wellbeing by offering support to access the NHS, offering gym and yoga classes online and by welcoming visiting organisations to speak to people about health issues, for example we work closely with NHS CLASH which provides information on sexual health.

Emotional wellbeing**:** People seeking asylum have often experienced traumatic events in their country of origin and are haunted by what has happened to them. Perhaps the most important part of our work is that we listen to people who chose to come to us, allowing them to feel valued and regain a sense of dignity.

In the Garden of my Mind

In Lockdown I have painted

planted and painted

In Lockdown I have painted

my way back to spring

In the garden of my mind

flowers and fruit have blossomed

In the garden of my mind

I have survived

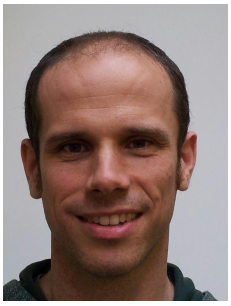
Now I hear birdsong calling me

outside

Poem by Ntela

Our team

We are a small but very dedicated team of eight members of staff (seven paid and one voluntary) with a broad range of experience and expertise. We worked closely during the pandemic, meeting on Zoom and speaking on the phone every day to find ways to keep reaching our clients through the challenges we faced. During the year, we recruited two new members of staff and the team included: two highly experienced English teachers, both of whom have extensive experience working with vulnerable people; our Support Service Coordinator who has lived experience of being a refugee and speaks ten languages; two recent graduates, a retired immigration and asylum solicitor, our fundraiser who is a former journalist and Andy, our Chief Executive who has successfully led the charity since 2000. We also would like to recognise the excellent work of Stephen Spencer who worked as Support Service Coordinator since 2015 who has now moved on.



Andy Ruiz Palma – Chief Executive.
I am the Chief Executive of Islington Centre. I lead on the strategy and direction of the work and work closely with all staff and trustees to ensure we are delivering the best service possible to our clients.

(Joined the Centre in 2000)

Anna Giokas – Head of Fundraising.
As Head of Fundraising I work closely with the Chief Executive to raise funds for the essential work through creating applications to trusts and grantors, managing individual donations and developing community fundraising partnerships.

(Joined the Centre in 2020)

Anya Paul – English Teacher, Community Liaison and Group Leader.
I am an English Tutor to the clients and work to improve integration and encourage community through language learning. I also liaise with community partners to bring a range of visitors and partner organisations to our classes to encourage diversity and inclusion. I am also a Group Leader supporting a specified group of clients on a regular basis.

(Joined the Centre in 2001)

Martha Maclachlan – English Teacher, Volunteer Coordinator and Group leader.
I am an English Tutor to the clients and work to improve integration and encourage community through language learning. I manage our current team of volunteers and support new volunteer applications. I am also a Group Leader supporting a specified group of clients on a regular basis.

(Joined as a member of staff in 2018 after 6 years as a volunteer)

Farida Mohammadi – Support Service Coordinator and Group Leader.
I support clients with a wide range of problems and issues that are preventing their personal development and learning. I work with clients on different issues including homelessness, destitution and health. I am also a Group Leader supporting a specified group of clients on a regular basis.

(Joined the Centre in 2021)

Shannon Rayner – Activities and Services Coordinator.
As the Activities and Services Coordinator I work with staff, clients, session leads and volunteers to ensure that the timetable is running smoothly and that we are offering our sessions in the best way possible.

(Joined the Centre in 2020)

Ruth Hill - Referrals and Reception Administrator
I work as an administrator and receptionist and work closely with the Activities and Services Coordinator to ensure everything runs smoothly. I also support and encourage the making of referrals which supports clients to connect with other organisations.

(Joined the Centre in 2021)

Gwen Morris – Group Leader and Support Service Volunteer.
I work closely with the Support Service Coordinator to support clients who are experiencing difficulties in their lives. I am also a Group Leader supporting a specified group of clients on a regular basis.

(Joined the Centre in 2019)

English Language Lessons

We have always believed that learning English is the most important first step our clients take towards living independently in the UK and teaching English remains at the heart of what we do. Our model is holistic, unique and extremely flexible. Our highly experienced English teachers, Anya and Martha, get to know our clients well during English classes and support people to keep learning throughout the challenges they face.

Developments in 2020-21

There is a severe shortage of English classes for the people we work with, particularly for destitute asylum seekers who are not able to access the limited free provision, and who cannot afford fees. In 2020-21 we made it a priority to increase the number and variety of classes we offer and across the year we provided 560 classes on Zoom with 121 people joining regularly. The high level of attendance is a mark of the determination and strength people showed to keep learning English during the very difficult days of lockdown and restrictions.

Lottery Funding

In April 2021 we secured funding from the National Lottery to develop our online English school over three years. We are so grateful for the funding which will allow us to continue our work and expand, reaching more asylum seekers and refugees across London with our high quality, free English classes. Thanks to the funding, we were able to recruit two freelance online teachers to work alongside Anya and Martha.

We are proud to report that 86% of clients reported feeling they had improved or maintained their ability to communicate in English during the year.

An email from Josephine to her English teacher: 'I'm Very Happy For your class, because your Teaching Really Good, during 2021 has gotten really good because of your teaching. Thank you. And I like your classes I'm happy to continue taking your Classes this years. Me I'm like Reading and Writing Lower and Higher. Thanks again Anya Paul.'

14 English classes were offered each week, including:

- 5 conversation classes
- 2 community and citizenship classes
- 1 English classes by our partner Speak Street
- 2 English at higher level
- 3 English at lower level
- 1 'Jack's English Club'

‘Storm’ By Neda K. Fard

“When You leave your country, you find yourself alone in this space and you really need to find the way. You are lucky if you find artists who look at the human ways.” Neda K. Fard

The Support Service

When people first come to us, they are often at a point of crisis. It may be a housing arrangement has suddenly fallen through, or they have received a negative decision in an asylum case, or they may be having difficulty finding a doctor. Our Support Service team is here to listen and take steps with that person to resolve the issue.

The support we offer is long term, often lasting two or three years but can be much longer. For example, over the course of a few years we might help the same person find a new solicitor, access trauma counselling, enrol on a college course, find a GP and access stable accommodation.

The Support Service provides support, referrals to partner organisations and advice on: housing; income and benefits; healthcare (both physical and psychological); education and training and negotiating the asylum system.

'Many of our clients are destitute, facing homelessness, have experienced trauma, may have complex needs, are faced with language barriers, and don't know where to turn for support.'
Farida, Support Service Coordinator.

Our work during 2020-21
Appointments were offered by phone throughout the year which saw both a national lockdown and a continuation of social distancing restrictions. In addition to offering personalised support by phone, the service ran online group sessions where issues such as healthcare or homelessness are discussed. Occasionally guest speakers are invited to join, for example Lawyers Against Poverty delivered several sessions.

In March 2021, we were delighted to recruit Ruth, our Referrals and Reception Administrator, to carry out referral sessions online where people could come together and learn about opportunities that might be open to them, for example applying to college, or securing voluntary work.

In 2020-21:

- The Support Service worked with 106 people.
- 65 people were supported to access healthcare.
- 20 people were supported out of destitution.
- We supported 12 asylum seekers to achieve refugee status.
- 19 people were helped with homelessness.
- 15 people enrolled in college

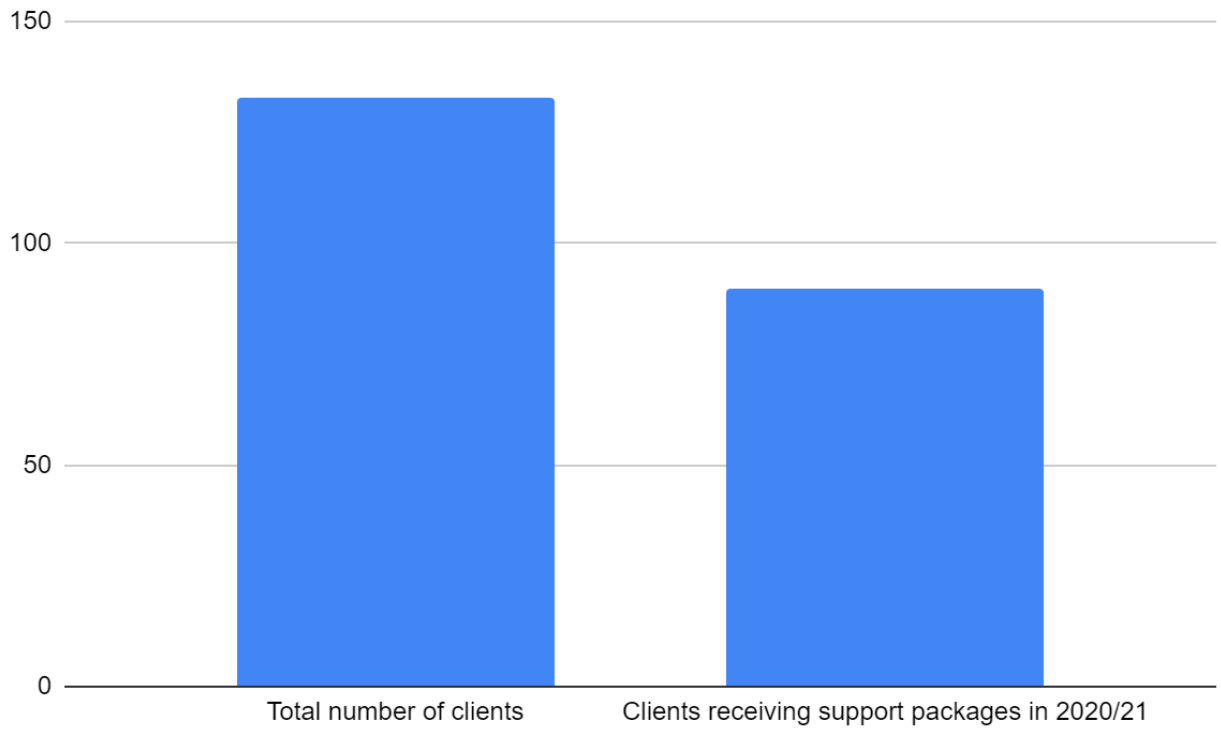
Support Packages for Asylum Seekers - a lifeline

We have a long history of making small emergency grants to people in crisis.

During the pandemic, we knew that our most vulnerable clients – asylum seekers with no legal right to work, scant support networks and no income – would struggle to get food and basic supplies. We knew we had to act and we quickly created what became known as our ‘support packages’.

These packages went to up to 90 people every fortnight giving people access to food, phone top-ups, essentials and travel.

During the year 2020-21 we sent 2340 support packages costing us £93,600. This was a huge undertaking for us as a small organisation and we are so proud that, with the help of our funders who put their faith in us, we were able to achieve it.



Abebi’s life in lockdown

A client from Nigeria, let us call her Abebi (not her real name), came to us in 2017. She was destitute having had a claim for asylum rejected. During the national lockdowns, Abebi, who is 61, was staying in emergency accommodation. ‘It was a big building, a lot of people were staying there,’ she said. ‘During the lockdown, it is not easy at all. It is not easy, everyone is inside, everyone is bored. The Islington Centre, they are nice people, Anya she calls me and talks to me.’

Throughout 2021, Abebi received support packages, including vouchers, from us every fortnight enabling her to live with dignity. ‘They are very good, you can buy some food with it, and I pay for my phone, my cleaning stuff, toiletries, everything.’

We are so delighted to say that with our support, Abebi was granted status to remain in the UK at the end of 2021, after 13 years of struggling as an asylum seeker. ‘I love the Islington Centre,’ she said. ‘When I go there, I see people and I feel happy. They are trying for us, they are very kind people there.’

Artwork by EE

Art, Writing, Choir, Exercise and Community Groups

Overview
We take a ‘whole person’ approach to improving emotional well being, offering groups and activities where clients can learn new skills, explore their emotions and express themselves. This is crucially important to people who have experienced persecution for speaking out and may now feel like they have lost their voices. Our sessions also offer people the chance to make friends and practise their English in a supportive, welcoming and friendly environment.

Over the year we offered

- 39 Choir sessions online with Romain Malan, director of the World Harmony Orchestra
- 40 Art and Writing sessions, led by our artists in residence, illustrator Jane Ray and author Sita Brahmachari and supported by a volunteer, illustrator Ros Asquith
- 80 Gym classes and sports appreciation groups in partnership with Mary’s Community Centre in Islington
- 25 Yoga classes
- 40 Book group sessions
- 25 Baby class sessions

Clients from our choir performed at the Southbank in ‘Swallow’s Kiss’ a novel inspired by the experiences of people who come to the Centre.

‘Swallow’s Kiss’ by artists in residence, writer Sita Brahmachari and illustrator Jane Ray, follows the story of seven year old Blessing and her family as she discovers a bag of lost paper birds with wishes written in different languages on their wings.

The story was performed at an event at the Southbank Centre to welcome Little Amal to London and involved music by members of the Islington Centre Refugee Choir and the Songworks Choir. Little Amal is a 9 foot tall puppet walking from Syria to raise awareness of the plight of refugee people.

Our Volunteers

2020-21 was a year of extreme challenges and change. Thank you so much to our team of volunteers who stood beside us, adapting to working on Zoom to help throughout the year with English classes, IT, translating, admin and leading groups and classes and so much more.

Gary, a volunteer

One of our volunteers, Gary, tells his story

‘When I retired, I wanted to continue to make a worthwhile social contribution, so I decided to train to teach English to immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

In the nineteenth century, my paternal great-grandparents and maternal grandfather came to the U.K. as Jewish immigrants from Europe, seeking a better life for themselves and their families. So, I also wanted to give immigrants in the U.K. today similar opportunities to participate more fully in society.

I really love being on the volunteer team. Although it can sometimes be quite challenging, it is also extremely rewarding to meet, work with and learn from different people from all over the world and help them in whatever modest way I can.

After retirement, I have been fortunate enough to rediscover a sense of purpose, goal and aim in life, together with a positive day to day structure. It is truly humbling to see all the hard work and dedication of the small number of ICRM staff members and the miracles they have performed, on a very limited budget

Painting by ‘N’

Focus on our partner Speak Street – a fun, social learning programme based in London

Speak Street is a positive response to negativity towards newcomers to the UK. We offer free English classes to refugees, asylum seekers and migrants as well as foreign language classes and events. We are happy to celebrate over 6 years of working with our longest standing and closest partner, The Islington Centre. Over the years we've held sessions for Islington Centre clients in some exciting locations; from Gardens, Museums, top London headquarters and the Islington Centre, itself.

Our fun, social learning approach brings together volunteers from the community with clients seeking to improve their English. We are proud to say our weekly Tuesday sessions are some of the centre's busiest. Originally these were just a temporary fix when Covid-19 forced us to go online, but they have maintained their popularity and we have honed our delivery skills including mastering the all important mute button!

"Our 'virtual' Tuesday session not only provides a lively, educational space for our clients to progress their English, but allows a warm and inviting community space to help our clients stay connected to one another, especially over the Covid period when we were all in isolation. This has proved invaluable and will continue to remain so." Gee.

We've also developed and shared several learning resources for use at the Centre, to help overcome the digital divide and are pleased that they have been well received.

Further to this, we have restarted our monthly 'Art Talks' visits, led by Anya. We take a group of clients to visit some of London's best galleries and museums as a way to get out and about and improve their English, as well as brush up on their knowledge of UK culture and history.

Our most recent 'Art Talks' visit to the Mercers' Company.

We're proud to say that we've successfully dealt with the ups and downs of the past few years and really appreciate the purpose we share with The Islington Centre and the ways in which we complement one another, and the delivery of our approach.

You can learn more about us at www.speak-street.com

Our funders

In 2020-21 we faced a huge challenge of fundraising both for our running costs and for the support packages which we sent to those most in need for food and essentials every fortnight during the pandemic.

Thank you so very much to everyone who made donations and to all the trusts and foundations which made it possible to keep the support packages going alongside our day to day running costs.

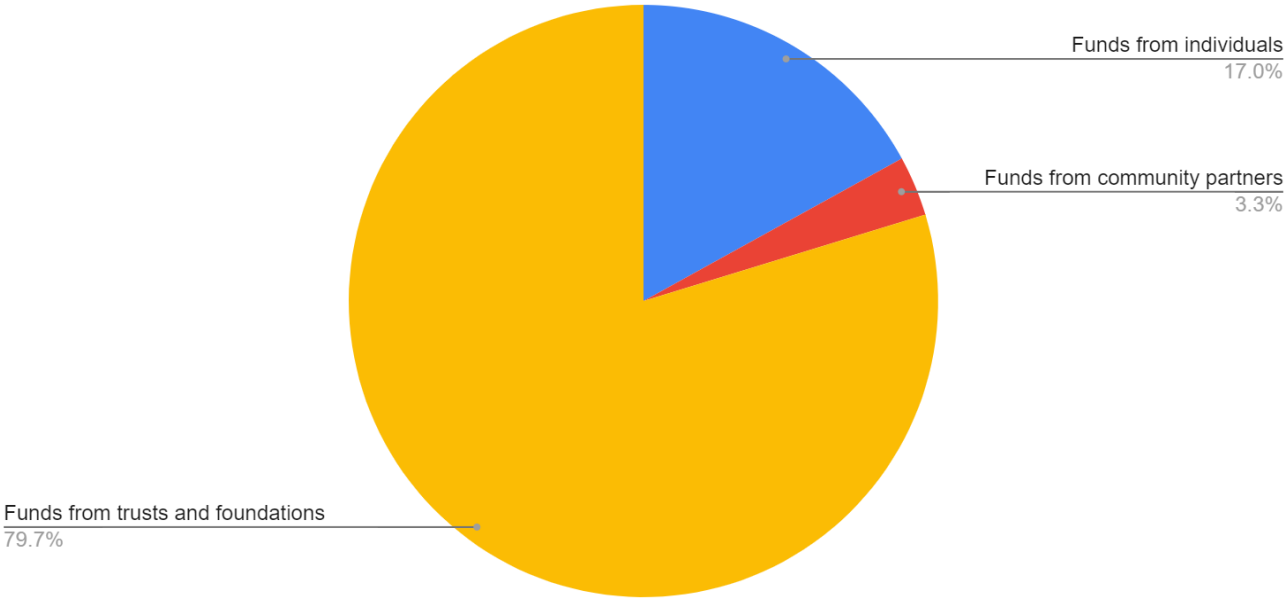
Where our funding came from in 2020-21

Trusts - 80% of our income in the year came from grant-giving trusts and foundations. Trusts and foundations are charities set up for the primary purpose of giving money away to other charities. We build close relationships with the trusts that support us and we see ourselves as working in partnership with them.

Individuals - 17% of our income in the year came from the very generous donations of individuals. We are so grateful to all those people who have chosen to support us. We couldn't do what we do without them.

Community Partnerships - 3% of our income in the year came from our community partners, this includes a wide range of organisations many of which work with our clients directly, offering experiences and support alongside donations. For example Speak Street offers English lessons and Songworks offers the chance for clients to sing and perform.

Funding sources 2020-21



Thank you to ALL the following trusts and foundations which supported us over the year with donations:

AB Charitable Trust
City Bridge Trust
Clothworkers' Foundation
Cloudesley
Comic Relief
Cripplegate
Diana Parker Charitable Settlement
French Huguenot Church
Garfield Weston Foundation
Hillcote Trust
Islington Council through the VCS scheme
Joseph Rank Charitable Trust
Leathersellers' Company
Leigh Charitable Trust
London Community Foundation
M&H Maunsell
National Lottery Reaching Communities
Porta Pia 2012
Reel Fund
Rhiannon Trust
Sharegift
Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation
Waylan Trust

Thank you especially to the following trusts and foundations which made donations towards our **support packages** and played such a key role in making sure that asylum seekers had the food and essentials they needed during the pandemic: City Bridge Trust, Cloudesley, Cripplegate, The National Lottery.

Multi-year grants gave us the confidence and stability to plan in the long term. We were proud during 2020-21 to have long-term funding partnerships with: **Cloudesley, Comic Relief through their London Together scheme, The Garfield Weston Foundation, The Hillcote Trust, The National Lottery through their Reaching Communities programme, The Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation, The City Bridge Trust, The Leathersellers' Company, Islington Council via their VCS grant and the Joseph Rank Trust.**

Macquarie Group Partnership

2020-21 marked the beginning of our partnership with global financial services firm, Macquarie Group, which chose to support us through its London Graduate Volunteering Network (GVN). The 2020-21 Graduate cohort based in Islington, their European Headquarters, raised funds through online events, such as a pancake challenge at Easter and invited Andy, our Chief Executive, to speak at an event for Refugee Week in June.

The Macquarie Group Graduate Volunteering Network

Community Partners

Our Community Partners are at the heart of our organisation, and we could not do this work without them.

Our Community Partners offer donations, volunteers, activities and work with us to provide our clients with the opportunities and experiences they need to move forward in their lives.

Thank you so much to everyone who brought us through an incredibly difficult year:

Accumulate
Bloody Good Period
C4WS
Christ Church Highbury
Church on the Corner
Fareshare
Haberdashers' Aske's School for Girls
Hackney Boxing Academy
Hackney Migrant Centre
Hampstead School of Art
Hanley Art Club
Highgate has Heart
Institute for Contemporary Art (ICA)
Islington Libraries
Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS)
Lawyers Against Poverty
Mary's Gym and Mary's Community Partnership
Neal's Yard
NHS CLASH Service
Not Actual Size Ltd
Notre Dame Refugee Centre
RENAISI - RISE
Room to Heal
Songworks Choir
Speak Street
St Augustine's Church
St Mary's Islington Church
St Thomas' Church
Steve Hatt Fishmongers
The Red Cross
Wallace Collection

Individual Donors

A huge and heartfelt thank you for the commitment and support of all the many individuals who made donations throughout the year. We wouldn't be here without you.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER:	07076199
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER:	1135205
TRUSTEES:	Victoria Rae (appointed Chair January 2022) Victor de Waal Teresa Dodgson Gladys Jusu Sheriff Beverley van der Sluis James Fletcher Edward Vargas Caceres Richard Nicholson
REGISTERED OFFICE:	Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants 16-18 Cross Street London N1 2BG 020 7354 9946 islingtoncentre@gmail.com www.islingtoncentre.co.uk
PRIMARY BANKERS:	The Co-operative Bank PO Box 250, Delf House Southway Skelmersdale WN8 6WT
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:	Mr J P Foxwell FCCA FCIE independent-examiner.net 39 Enfield Road Poole BH15 3LJ

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees, who are also directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the Companies Act, submit their report and the financial statements for the year ending 31 August 2021.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the governing document, the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

STATUS: The company was incorporated on 13 November 2009 and is limited by guarantee. The company is a registered charity (no: 1135205) and was registered on 25 March 2010. The Memorandum and Articles of Association form the governing documents of the charitable company. The limit of the members' guarantee is £1. No provision for taxation has been made on the basis that the charitable company is exempt from Corporation Tax on its charitable activities.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: The principal activity of the charitable company in the year under review was Education - Adult and other education

OBJECTIVES: The Objectives as described in the Memorandum and Articles of Association reads as follows:

1. To advance education and relieve financial hardship amongst those seeking asylum and those granted refugee status by the provision of advice, training and support.
2. To advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum.
3. To advance the Christian religion by living out our love for neighbour and bringing the stranger of any or no faith into our community.

All work of the charitable company has been dedicated to the furtherance of these objectives.

BANK ACCOUNTS

The Centre's main bank account is with the Cooperative Bank. The Centre has a savings deposit account with Triodos and no further bank accounts were opened throughout the year. The Centre has an account with PayPal in order to receive online donations. Donations are also received via Charities Aid Foundation.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants is committed to its objectives in all its activities. The principal activities, in line with Charity Commission's public benefit description are:
The advancement of education comprising the delivery of a range of services including: English to refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, art and creative writing, dance, choir and exercise based activities in order to build confidence within and up-skill all those who access our services.
A Support Service offering practical help, referrals and guidance for clients needing help.
Relief of Hardship destitute clients have access to a range of services that help to relieve both short and long term hardship. This includes our Support Package programme for destitute asylum seekers.

On completing activities at the Centre many of our clients progress onto additional higher level further education courses in their chosen subject area, volunteer roles in the community or to paid employment positions. Asylum seekers who are prohibited from working are welcomed to continue attending the Centre while they await the outcome of their asylum application.

Volunteering is a critical element in the development of a strong community and it is this which mutually benefits the wider community and the Centre. At any given time there are around 40 volunteers contributing to the work of the Centre undertaking activities as varied as preparing food parcels, supporting clients with their everyday (or more complex) problems, facilitating craft groups and furthering their experiences of British life through our enrichment programme.

Our Mission statement

We welcome people who have been displaced from their countries of origin, wherever they have come from, whatever has happened in their lives. Our mission is to offer people the emotional support, practical tools and sense of community they need to build a decent, happy life in the UK.

The refugees and migrants who come to us have been through extremely difficult times. Leaving your country because of war, persecution or incarceration takes real grit, determination and courage. But for many, arriving in London is just the beginning of a long journey towards settled status and a decent life.

At the Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants, we welcome people, talk with them, listen to what they need and respond to that. Whether someone tells us they need English lessons, advice on housing, accessing healthcare, applying to college or any of the many challenges of being a migrant in London – we are here for them.

The change we want to see

We work to ensure positive, sustainable change for asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants.

Our Centre is a place where:

- Asylum seekers, refugees and migrants feel safe and welcome
- Asylum seekers, refugees and migrants can meet with each other and with the local community to build friendships and share stories
- Asylum seekers, refugees and migrants are supported to improve their emotional and physical wellbeing

We support our clients to:

- Be independent and empowered
- Be confident in communicating with people around them, and in a position to seize opportunities to build new skills and experiences
- Have access to income, housing, healthcare, education and a stable immigration status

We do this through providing the following services and activities:

- English language lessons
- Skills development activities, workshops and partnerships
- Crisis support to meet immediate need, including emergency grants, donations and support to access shelter
- Advice and advocacy on income, housing, education, healthcare, and supporting people to secure their immigration status
- Health checks, exercise and donations of food, toiletries and sanitary protection
- Providing a safe, welcoming space, including therapeutic arts activities
- Social and recreational activities
- Opportunities to share to help the community engage with, support and understand our clients

TRUSTEES

The trustees (who also act as directors for Companies Act purposes) who served during the year 2020-21 are as follows:

	Appointment Start	**Appointment End**
Rev Victor de Waal (Outgoing Chair 17/01/22)	01/09/10	Continuing as trustee
Teresa Dodgson	21/06/12	Continuing
Gladys Jusu-Sheriff	21/06/12	Continuing
Beverley van der Sluis	21/06/12	Continuing
James Fletcher	04/10/12	Continuing
Edward Vargas Caceres	04/10/12	Continuing
Richard Nicholson	26/11/18	Continuing

Note: Incoming Chair appointed 17/01/22:

Victoria Rae (Incoming Chair 17/01/22)	17/01/22	Continuing

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs and of the surplus or deficit for the year.

In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for:

- keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity; and
- safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- agreement on strategy and an annual budget approved by the trustees;
- regular consideration by the trustees of financial results, variance from budgets, and non-financial performance indicators;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties; and
- identification and management of risks.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Centre has insurance policies as follows:

- Employers' Liability insurance with Markel International Insurance Company Limited
- Public Liability insurance with Markel International Insurance Company Limited
- Directors and Officers Management Liability Insurance with Marsh Omega

The Centre has in place a Safeguarding Policy for vulnerable adults and children that it works with.

The Centre has in place a Health and Safety policy which includes a Risk Assessment.

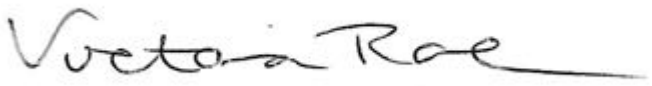
The trustees have compiled an active risk register in order to manage any issues and to minimise disruption in the event of a realised risk.

The trustees have prepared and agreed to comply to a Code of Conduct.

RESERVES

The net current assets of £277,649 comprise restricted funds of £62,626, a designated redundancy fund of £25,000 and free reserves of £190,023. The free reserves element of the current assets represents approximately 5 months' running costs of the expenditure budget for 2021-22.

This report was approved by the Board on 14th March 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



Victoria Shelley Rae
Chair of Trustees

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ISLINGTON CENTRE FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2021 which comprise a Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and related notes.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of both the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and the Association of Charity Independent Examiners (ACIE), both of which are listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. The accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mr J P Foxwell FCCA FCIE
independent-examiner.net

39 Enfield Road
Poole
BH15 3LJ

Date: 14th March 2022

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2021 (including an Income and Expenditure Account)

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 £	2020 £
INCOME					
Donations and legacies		98,718	125,220	223,938	155,723
Activities for generating funds		-	-	-	65
Charitable activities	2	563	210,205	210,768	206,917
Other income		1,335	-	1,335	2,925
Total income		100,616	335,425	436,041	365,630
EXPENDITURE					
Costs of generating income		1,469	-	1,469	733
Charitable activities	3	17,723	345,454	363,177	288,345
Total expenditure		19,192	345,454	364,646	289,078
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds		**81,424**	**(10,029)**	**71,395**	**76,552**
Funds brought forward		133,599	72,655	206,254	129,702
Funds carried forward		£215,023	£62,626	£277,649	£206,254

The Statement of Financial Activities reflects the results of continuing activities for the year.

There are no recognised gains and losses other than those shown in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Balance Sheet at 31 August 2021

	Notes	£	2021 £	£	2020 £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors and accrued income	5	3,425		-	
Cash at bank and in hand		274,224		207,124	
		277,649		207,124	
CREDITORS – amounts falling due in less than one year		-		(870)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			£277,649		£206,254
FUNDS					
General fund			190,023		117,599
Designated fund	6		25,000		16,000
Total unrestricted funds			215,023		133,599
Restricted funds	9		62,626		72,655
Total funds			£277,649		£206,254

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act) relating to the audit of the financial statements for the year by virtue of section 477, and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the trustees on 14th March 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

Victoria Rae

Victoria Shelley Rae
Chair of Trustees

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015) – Charities SORP (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

(a) Company status

The charity is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company are those persons included in the register of members and include the trustees named on page [3]. In the event of the charitable company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member.

(b) Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charitable company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

(c) Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charitable company is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

(d) Pensions

During the financial year ending 31 August 2021 pension provision continued with the employer's contribution being 8% for all staff. The Centre adheres to the Auto Enrolment Scheme and is compliant with the requirements as set out by the Pensions Regulator. The Centre's pensions' service provider is The Pensions Trust.

(e) Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Governance costs, now included within charitable activity costs, are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

2. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£
AB Charitable Trust	-	20,000	20,000	15,000
Austin and Hope Pilkington	-			1,000
City Bridge	-	30,000	30,000	-
City Bridge – City of London Corporation	-			16,800
City Bridge – Coronavirus	-			4,200
Comic Relief – Recovery Fund	-	7,200	7,200	28,800
Comic Relief Sport	-	34,005	34,005	34,507
Garfield Weston	-	30,000	30,000	-
Islington Council	-	18,750	18,750	15,000
Joseph Rank	-	-	-	7,500
Leathersellers	-	10,000	10,000	20,000
London Churches Refugee Fund	-	1,750	1,750	2,200
London Community Response – Wave 3	-	3,500	3,500	-
Cloudesley Charity (Catalyst)	-	5,000	5,000	5,000
Cloudesley Charity (Welfare)	-	20,000	20,000	18,000
Cloudesley Charity (Support)	-	30,000	30,000	-
Stanley Thomas Johnson	-	-	-	4,994
Stanley Thomas Johnson 2	-	-	-	18,103
Stanley Thomas Johnson Support Packages	-	-	-	14,228
Victor de Waal Book Proceeds	563	-	563	1,585
	£563	£210,205	£210,768	£206,917

3. COSTS OF ACTIVITIES IN FURTHERANCE OF THE CHARITABLE OBJECTS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£
Client Activities	-	16,679	16,679	8,421
Client Hardship Payments	-	94,646	94,646	58,121
Client Travel and Subsistence	-	-	-	24,120
Governance Costs	3,972	849	4,821	1,969
Running Costs	4,871	21,670	26,541	27,271
Salaries and associated on-costs	5,676	193,887	199,563	144,646
Sessional Workers	3,204	15,764	18,968	15,532
Staff and Volunteer Development	-	1,959	1,959	4,589
Volunteer Costs	-	-	-	3,676
	£17,723	£345,454	£363,177	£288,345

4. STAFF COSTS

	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£
Salaries and wages	173,401	126,263
Social security costs	12,457	7,426
Pension costs	12,842	10,165
	£198,700	£143,854

No employees had employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2020 – nil).

The average monthly headcount was 7 staff (2020 – 7 staff).

5. DEBTORS AND ACCRUED INCOME

	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£
Accrued grant income (RC Welfare fund)	£3,425	£-

6. DESIGNATED FUND

The trustees have designated £25,000 as a contingency against unexpected staff redundancy costs.

7. TRUSTEES

No trustee received any remuneration during the year. No expenses were reimbursed to any trustee during the year ending 31 August 2020 or 31 August 2021.

8. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£
Current assets	215,023	62,626	277,649	207,124
Creditors	-	-	-	(870)
	£215,023	£62,626	£277,649	£206,254

9. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance b/f £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance c/f £
Islington Council	-	18,750	(18,333)	417
Speak Street fund	-	2,000	(2,000)	-
London Churches Refugee fund	-	1,750	(1,750)	-
Comic Relief Sport fund	11,502	34,005	(36,691)	8,816
Comic Relief – Recovery fund	16,800	7,200	(24,000)	-
Cloudesley – Catalyst fund	1,667	5,000	(5,000)	1,667
Cloudseley – Welfare fund	-	20,000	(20,000)	-
Cloudseley – Support Services	-	30,000	(27,500)	2,500
City Bridge	-	33,500	(33,500)	-
Stanley Thomas Johnson	3,875	-	(3,875)	-
Stanley Thomas Johnson Support Packages	14,228	-	(14,228)	-
AB Charitable Trust	1,250	20,000	(12,917)	8,333
Leathersellers	8,333	10,000	(10,000)	8,333
Joseph Rank	7,500	-	(7,500)	-
Anonymous Donor	-	3,950	(3,950)	-
National Literacy Trust	-	70	(70)	-
Sharegift	-	5,000	(5,000)	-
National Lottery C-19 Response - Operation	-	50,000	(50,000)	-
National Lottery – Reaching Communities	-	30,000	(15,000)	15,000
CRISIS Emergency Grant	-	10,000	(10,000)	-
National Lottery	-	9,000	(9,000)	-
Clothworkers Foundation	-	5,200	(5,200)	-
Garfield Weston	-	30,000	(12,440)	17,560
London Community Response Wave 5	-	10,000	(10,000)	-
Huguenots	7,500	-	(7,500)	-
	£72,655	£335,425	£(345,454)	£62,626